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INSIDE EIGHT PAGES FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

IDF confirms skeletal remains are Ilan Sa'adon's

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
DNA tests have confirmed that the skeleton found buried under a road near Palmahim beach last month is that of missing soldier Ilan Sa'adon, the IDF announced yesterday.
His family was notified last night. Sa'adon will be buried today in Ashkelon.
Chief IDF Chaplain Maj.-Gen. Rabbi Gad Navon officially declared Sa'adon no longer a soldier whose place of burial is unknown. Besides the DNA test, Navon also based his halachic decision on items found at the burial site, the army said.
Members of the IDF's department for locating missing persons found Sa'adon's body after receiving a tip from the Palestinian Authority.
Sa'adon was kidnapped and murdered by Hamas terrorists on May 3, 1989 while hitchhiking to his home in Ashkelon. His kidnapers fled to Sudan and Syria and after many years of futile searches a deal was worked out with the help of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to obtain information on where the terrorists had dumped his body. Searchers dug to depths of over 8 meters to find his remains.

Health Ministry did not stock diphtheria anti-toxin

JUDY SIEGEL
THE Health Ministry has failed since 1990 to maintain even a single usable dose of diphtheria anti-toxin in the country, even though the disease claimed the life of an eight-year-old Bnei Brak boy in 1988, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.
A four-year-old Jerusalem girl died of the infectious disease nine days ago. She had not been inoculated as a baby.
Last night, a supply of 15 to 20 doses arrived here from France, after the Health Ministry conducted a frantic worldwide search for the rare substance.
The latest case was tentatively diagnosed by family practitioner Dr. Pešach Ostroy on Wednesday, July 31. He urged the parents to take their daughter urgently to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem and informed the hospital. She was treated by Hadassah pediatric infectious diseases expert Dr. Dan Engelhardt, who inserted a pacemaker, but her heart failed under attack from the disease.
Health Ministry public health department director Dr. Alex Levinthal claimed Hadassah doctors requested a dose of the serum only at midnight on Friday, August 2, less than 24 hours before the Mea She'arim girl died of the disease.
(Continued on Page 2)



A mob of Turkish Cypriots beat a Greek Cypriot protester to death yesterday along the cease-fire line that divides Turkish and Greek Cyprus.

1 dead, 47 injured in Cyprus clashes

News agencies
A GREEK Cypriot man was killed and 35 others were wounded in clashes with Turkish Cypriots yesterday across the cease-fire line that has divided the island since Turkey invaded the north in 1974.
Twelve Turkish Cypriot civilians and policemen were also wounded, the foreign and defense minister of the Turkish Cypriot government, Atay Rasit, told a news conference in northern Cyprus.
The violence, the worst in many years, erupted when a group of Greek Cypriot motorcyclists defied a government order and pushed through the Green Line to protest against Turkey's occupation.
A doctor at Paralimni hospital said a 24-year-old Greek Cypriot man died of head injuries. Witnesses said the victim fell on barbed wire in the buffer zone and was beaten by Turkish Cypriot demonstrators on the head.
"He was lying there face upwards and the Turks attacked him. They beat his head to a pulp," one witness said.
Hospital sources and police said the 35 Greek Cypriots were wounded by bullets, stones and air rifle shots, mainly in the village of Aghna and the southeastern village of Dherinia.
UN spokesman Waldemar Rokozewski said Turkish troops fired at the bikers after they drove through the cease-fire line.
Some 7,000 Greek Cypriot and foreign bikers had gathered for the demonstrations. Some of the motorcyclists had spent a week riding across Europe.
The foreign bikers consisted of 14 European delegations, with smaller numbers from the US and Canada.
The protests along the UN-patrolled 180-km Green Line that splits the island into Christian Greek and Moslem Turkish sectors were held despite a government appeal to cancel them to avoid inflaming sectarian passions.
The rock-throwing protesters broke through Turkish barricades at several points. They were opposed by several hundred Turkish Cypriots in civilian clothes, who outnumbered the protesters.
Police said that the 13 Greek Cypriots were injured at different points along the Green Line. Most had superficial injuries, but two were reported in serious condition.
Several had been hit by 22-caliber bullets, police claimed.
On the northeastern edge of Nicosia, dozens of bikers tore down barbed wire barricades erected by the 1,200-strong UN force and stormed into the narrow buffer separating the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sectors.

Arafat may seek int'l arbitration

JON IMMANUEL
PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said in his first full interview with the Israeli media yesterday that the Oslo accords are an international agreement and he will look to international arbitration if the peace process becomes deadlocked.
And in his first interview with the daily *Al-Quds*, published in yesterday's issue, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made clear that Jerusalem is a deadlocked issue.
"There is no way we are going to agree with the Palestinian Authority on the final status of Jerusalem. It looks like it is one of those unresolved issues," he said.
Arafat reiterated his vision of Jerusalem being like Rome, in which the Vatican has sovereignty inside the capital of Italy and people move freely between the two entities.
If there is no agreement, "We have the United Nations, we have The Hague, we have the co-sponsors, we have the Security Council, we have the Europeans. We'll go to arbitration," Arafat told Channel 1. "It is an international need. There is no other choice but to carry on with the peace process."
Arafat said that regardless of Netanyahu's agenda he cannot ignore the PLO leader.
"He is trying to avoid meeting me now, [but] I am the most important figure in the Middle East equation," Arafat said.
Netanyahu told *Al-Quds*, the largest Palestinian daily, that he would meet Arafat "when it is necessary." Netanyahu attempted to downplay the significance of his decision concerning settlement expansion, which has riled the PA in recent days. He said he was talking of "natural expansion of settlements" which would be decided "under the supervision of the government" and "not by the local communities."
Asked if there was likely to be a new intifada, Arafat said Palestinians see Israel as "one of the richest countries" in the world, and suggested that this made Israeli measures which struck at their livelihoods more painful.
"What do you expect from those who are facing confiscation of land every day," he continued. "They are eating from this land. We are not rich like you. We haven't billions in donations from the American administration like you. How can he [Israel] face himself alone while his neighbor is facing starvation... You have to be very careful. The closure and the starvation have arrived at the red line."
Asked if he could stop Hamas terror attacks if the closure were broadly lifted, Arafat said, "I am doing my best," and equated Palestinian terror attacks with the Hebron massacre and the killing of "the engineer."
In response to a question about why he praised bombmaker Yihye Ayyash ("the engineer"), he said his assassination in Gaza (attributed to Israel) last January was "terror against terror" and he should have been allowed to arrest Ayyash and bring him to trial.
He also compared the threat of Hamas terror against Israelis with the threat of Jewish extremists
(Continued on Page 2)

US: Expel illegal foreign workers to give jobs to Palestinians

DAVID MAKOVSKY and DAVID HARRIS
THE US has appealed to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to expel 100,000 illegal foreign workers to make more room for Palestinians seeking employment.
The appeal was made directly to Netanyahu last week by visiting US Undersecretary for Trade Stuart Eizenstadt.
It is estimated that there are at least 200,000 foreign workers here - perhaps even 250,000 - out of whom no more than 100,000 are legally employed. They initially came here several years ago to replace Palestinian workers barred from Israel due to closures imposed after Hamas' suicide bombings.
Last week during a visit to Amman, Netanyahu announced he would permit 5,000 more Palestinians to work in Israel, bringing the total up to 40,000.
In an interview before his departure, Eizenstadt said, "I told the prime minister that we think those people who are here illegally should not be allowed to stay, and thereby help ease the Palestinian situation. He told me he agreed, and would prefer their jobs be taken by Palestinians."
An official in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed this account.
Terje Larsen, the UN special coordinator for the territories, said there is a need to "radically increase the number of Palestinian workers. This is compatible with legitimate Israeli security concerns. An increase in Palestinian workers has twofold significance, as each raises living conditions, as each supports 10 people, and worker supports 10 people, and every 10,000 workers in Israel per annum brings in about \$20 million revenues for the PA."
Yet, it seems that no immediate action against illegal foreign workers is being considered.
The inter-ministerial committee on foreign workers has reportedly suggested, in its interim recommendations, that the number of foreign workers be reduced by 20,000 by next April. However, even assuming no additional workers are brought in, the committee says it would take at least five years for law enforcement officials to expel all of the illegal workers.
The committee, headed by Labor and Social Affairs Ministry Acting Director-General Asher Pri-Har, is investigating the future options for the country's foreign workers.
Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing Meir Porush last night issued a statement criticizing the committee's recommendations.
"There is no room to reduce the number of foreign workers at the time when the building sector is at the peak of its activity," Porush said, noting that though one must not ignore the social problems presented by hiring workers from abroad, the short-term effect would be to delay construction and raise apartment prices.
In letters to Netanyahu, Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Porush asked for a two-week delay in deciding on the reduction. That would give the committee time to examine the issue afresh, Porush said.
The committee's final recommendations are to be submitted by November.

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Settler opposition prevents IDF from erecting safety fences in Hebron

A TOP general said yesterday that settlers in Judea and Samaria are not accepting some safety measures...

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ghetto and behind walls. They want us to put bullet-proof glass in our windows...

Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that the IDF soon would redeploy its troops in Hebron.

Radio. Arad, speaking to military reporters, said the Home Front has offered to subsidize the installations of "distress buttons" in the vehicles of residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

installed already and residents reportedly received letters with details on how they can obtain one.

Kahalani aide supports Bassiouny's denial of interference

BILL HUTMAN

EGYPTIAN Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny yesterday denied allegations that he wrongly interfered in the dispute over the Jerusalem office of Palestinian Authority councilor Hatem Abdel Khader...

PA denies it runs Jerusalem offices

BILL HUTMAN

THE government is wrongly charging the Palestinian Authority with operating several offices in east Jerusalem...

The sources described the Vocational Studies Institute as an independent, Non-Governmental Organization...

The Hebrew daily Ha'aretz reported Friday the government had set an August 15 deadline for the closures...

According to the report, Israel has a commitment from the US that the aid will be held up if there are continued violations of the ban on PA activity in Jerusalem.



Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin Shahak (center) views the IDF's state-of-the-art communications equipment...

Palestinians allege further torture by Palestinian police

JON IMMANUEL

ONE week after large demonstrations in Nablus and Tulkarim followed the death of a prisoner at the hands of Palestinian police...

his exit and an officer arrested the driver, Khalidoun Kajabi. Kajabi, from A-Ram, said he was taken to Jericho police station...

Shusfat said Kajabi was treated for a swollen eye, abrasions on his neck and bruises on both shoulders and arms...

Kajabi, in testimony given to human rights activist Bassem Eid, said that 10 policemen "with sticks, belts and iron bars beat [him] all over."

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Center for the Protection of Human Rights said yesterday that its field worker visited four detainees from Jumeid prison in a Nablus hospital suffering from "wounds inflicted by batons and water hoses."

High Court rejects appeal against closure of Relief Association

DAVID RUDGE and Ilim

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected the Nazareth-based Islamic Relief Association's appeal that it be allowed to reopen...

and diplomatic [authorities] continue to regard the Arab sector and the minority Palestinian in Israel from the security point of view...

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public warned about Tel Aviv restaurant

Health Ministry inspectors have discovered "serious" hygienic violations in the Little Tel Aviv restaurant at 300 Rehov Hayarkon.

Youth killed while cleaning windows

A 17-year-old was killed yesterday while cleaning the windows of an office building in Tel Aviv. Zohar Ofri, a pupil from Rosh Ha'ayin, was attached by ropes to the roof of Beit Eiropan on Shaul Hamelech Avenue...

Restrictions eased on villages

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan has eased the sweeping restrictions imposed by his predecessor on five Palestinian villages in the West Bank which were home to suicide bombers.

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

deeply mourns the tragic passing of

JUDITH HURWICH

and extends deepest condolences to the family matriarch, Mrs. Rita Kaufman, who together with her late husband, Benjamin, was among the university's founders

and to our dear friend, Belda Lindenbaum, past president of the American Friends of Bar-Ilan and a Global Board of Trustees member, and her family, as well as to the Newman and Hurwich families.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY Faculty of Humanities

mourn the loss of a devoted teacher

HANNAH WEINSTEIN

and extend condolences to her husband, Simie, and the family

יהי זכרה ברוך

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance

mourns the passing of

Justice BENJAMIN HALEVI

and sends condolences to his wife Michal A Member of the Board of Governors

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

YAIR HANANIA

The funeral took place yesterday, Sunday, August 11, 1996 (26 Av 5756).

The Family

Shiva, from 4 p.m., at the home of the deceased, 6/12 Rehov Drucker, Pardess Hanna

HEALTH

Levinthal said that "over the years, we were certain that diphtheria anti-toxin was in stock in the warehouse. We had no idea it would not be there, even though the disease is extremely rare and the demand is negligible."

Since the girl's death, Levinthal spoke to ministry officials in charge of vaccine supply and found that the decision to discontinue the anti-toxin supply was made six years ago by a ministry official who has since died and whom he declined to name.

"Office staffers went over and over the matter, and said it must certainly have been taken on professional reasons, not as a matter of saving money. But we still don't know. In any case, we now have the anti-toxin, and we will inform the hospitals where it is if they need it. We will automatically replace it as the anti-serum expires."

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1) against Palestinians, citing the Hebron massacre in 1994.

Al-Quds managing editor Maher el-Sheikh, who conducted the interview in the Prime Minister's Office on Friday, said that Netanyahu expressed support for a Palestinian entity next to Israel and open relations.

"In my opinion ... in the final stage there will be an independent state, no doubt, or you are insisting on occupying us. I am asking

authorities and never vaccinated, as her middle-aged American-born parents treated her for her illnesses and did not take her to the neighborhood family health center.

The rate of vaccinations against childhood diseases is only 68% in Mea She'arim, compared with nearly 90% in the rest of the country. Among the reasons given for refusal are reported rumors by some rabbis, rumors of vaccinated children who became ill, anti-Zionist sentiments and fears of hearing about contraception at family health centers.

Levinthal said the anti-toxin that arrived was produced from the serum of horses that had developed immunity to diphtheria; anti-toxin from a human source is preferable, as some people are sensitive to proteins from animals. The material is rare, as anti-vivisectionists oppose killing horses to make the drug.

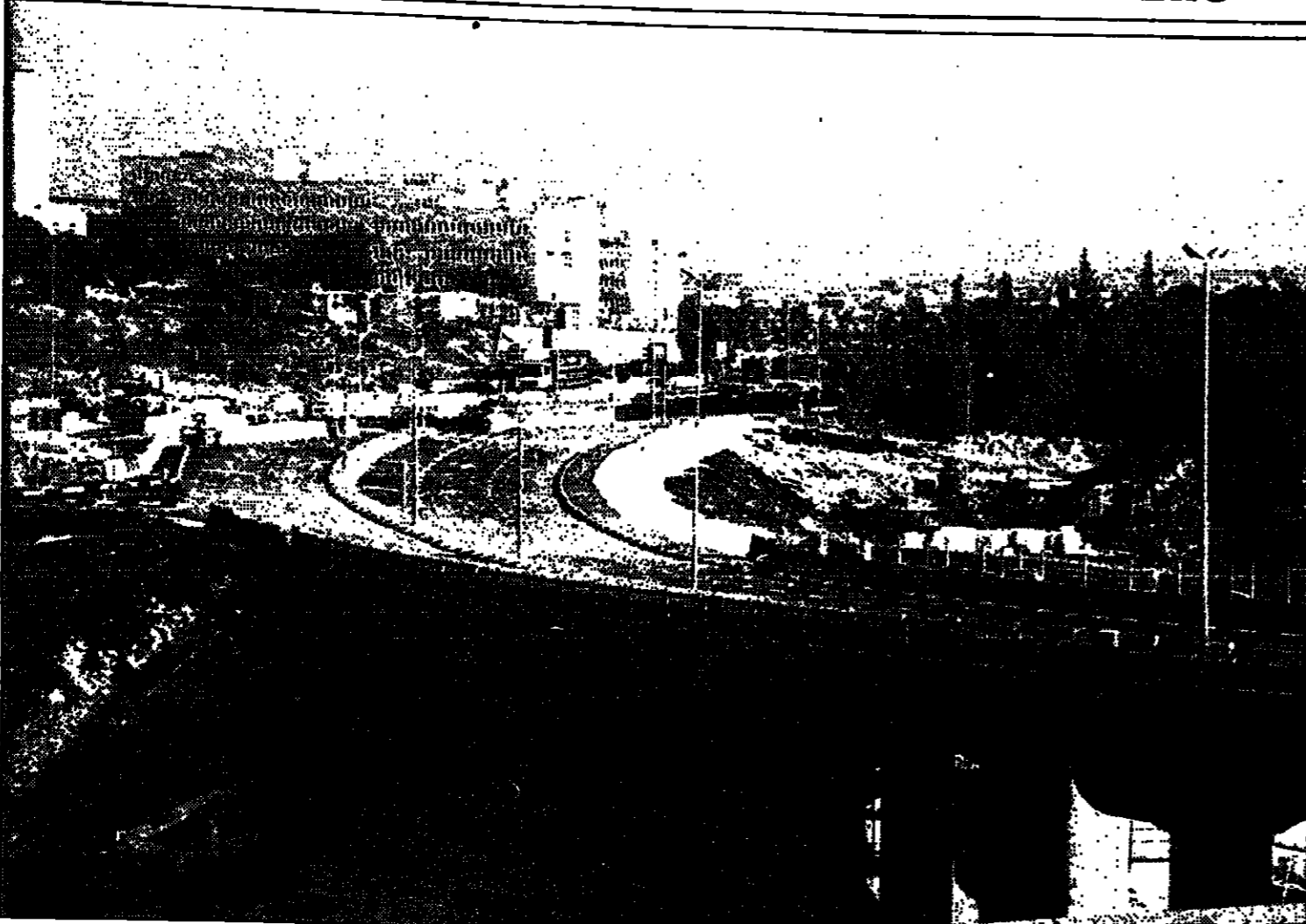
this to every Israeli citizen." Netanyahu did not address redeployment in Hebron and other outstanding issues to be resolved in the interim accord, but emphasized that at this point the PA is violating the interim agreement by operating in Jerusalem.

THE AGREEMENT: Strife & Intrigue on the Temple Mount. Muslims from the bazaars of Teheran and the mosques in Damascus...

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Jerusalem's newest bridge, Ruppin Bridge, linking the government offices with Sderot Herzl, will be inaugurated today. The 191-meter-long bridge passes over Road No. 4 and has two lanes in each direction. It cost NIS 10 million to construct. (Brian Hendler)

Third Way: Wait on annexing Ma'aleh Adumim

BILL HUTMAN

NOW is not the right time to annex Ma'aleh Adumim and the rest of metropolitan Jerusalem because doing so would violate Israel's agreements with the Palestinian Authority, Third Way MKs said yesterday during a visit to the town.

However, he added, now is not the time to address the issue of expanding Israel's borders to include Ma'aleh Adumim. "I don't want to talk now about annexation, because that goes against the agreements," Kahalani said, at a press conference during the visit.

Other party MKs said the government should act to put "facts on the ground that will make clear that this area is inseparable from Israel." Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, at the start of the press conference, called for the annexation of metropolitan Jerusalem - including Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Beitar and the Etzion Bloc. However, he did not press the issue after the MKs said the time was not right.

Kashriel said an immediate step that could be taken was moving the police roadblock for Jerusalem from A-Zayim to near Mishor Adumim, considered one of the outer-limits of metropolitan Jerusalem. Kahalani did not comment on the proposal. The Third Way members toured the city to see first hand the development there and the plans for future construction. Kahalani also met with Judea and Samaria police chief Alec Ron to discuss security in the area.

Teenagers compete in Olympiyeda science finals

JUDY SIEGEL

EIGHT teenage finalists, including three from the US and England, will this evening compete in the seventh annual "Olympiyeda" science quiz. The youngsters, who have studied for months, will answer questions on "sound and hearing." The final round will be taped at the Golan-Globus studios in Neve Ilan outside Jerusalem and broadcast in three weeks on Educational TV.

The current competition involved twice as many youngsters in all stages as that in 1995, when the theme was "See the Light." Next year, he hopes to include many more countries, and by the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel in 1998, it should be a fully international competition, he said. The next quiz will probably be held in French or Spanish in addition to Hebrew and English.

Nine hurt in blaze which gutted Upper Nazareth home

DAVID RUDGE

NINE people were hurt - four of them children - when fire swept through a house in Upper Nazareth yesterday morning.

The drama began in the morning when the children and another young brother, aged five, were home alone, while their parents were at work.

A fire suddenly broke out in the kitchen. The five-year-old managed to climb out of the house through a window and ran to a neighbor. The emergency services were alerted and police, firemen and MDA ambulances quickly arrived at the scene.

The police and firemen managed to break open a window and rescue the elder sister, who said her brothers were still inside. The firemen eventually managed to rescue them.

The fireman was injured by a falling block during the rescue operation. District fire brigade commander Amos Sabag said it appeared that the children had opened the stove's gas taps and gas had leaked into the kitchen. It was ignited by a spark from the refrigerator and the flames quickly spread through the rest of the house.

The Upper Nazareth municipality said it would fund temporary accommodations for the family, and that it will soon be discussed by a committee he heads.

The award was financed by STET, the Italian Telephone and Communications Company, in an effort to promote excellence in science among Israeli youth. Beck will spend a year carrying out research in the Technion's chemistry department starting this fall.

In addition, 10 months ago, the Health Ministry decided to approve an increase of dozens of nurses' positions due to the rise in patient loads. This authorization is still in effect.

Strikes over work conditions threaten health system

JUDY SIEGEL

AFTER a long respite, the health system seems threatened by labor unrest again. Doctors, hospital nurses and state lab workers all are involved.

The Israel Medical Association yesterday released a letter it sent last week to the health and finance ministers denouncing the government's decision to not increase the number of job slots in the government hospital system. IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar maintained that this decision "violates collective agreements between the government and the IMA. In addition, because of the Patients' Rights Law, which

now goes into effect, it would have been right to increase the number of jobs because of the greater demands on medical staffers." Blachar demanded that the ministers issue a statement declaring that the government has no intention of violating collective agreements and of harming medical services.

"Nurses finish a day's work frustrated, angry and with a feeling of complete helplessness," union head Ilana Cohen said. Health Ministry spokesman Effie Lahav commented that the ministry raised the nurses' job slot question with Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet,

Widespread condemnation greets Amir 'fan club'

MICHAL YUDELMAN and DAN IZENBERG

THE report on teenage girls who have set up the "Yigal Amir fan club" in admiration of the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, has sent shock waves through the political spectrum and raised a public storm.

Three 17-year-old girls from the religious Gross school in Kiryat Gat, who were interviewed on Israel TV's news magazine on Friday evening, said they represent a much larger phenomenon of "groupies" of Amir. They said they come to court to watch him, send him letters to prison and collect every bit of information from the press in a scrap book about him.

The girls expressed their attraction and admiration for the murderer and even justified the murder, calling Amir a "hero." On the walls of the Gross school appear the slogans "Peres is next," "Death to Arabs," and others, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Leah Rabin, the late prime minister's widow, said the phenomenon exposed by the report is not at all marginal.

"It's a very dangerous phenomenon, which, if investigated, will reveal many young people [who worship Amir]. There is a huge public which thinks the murder was a good thing, following the systematic rabid incitement against Yitzhak [Rabin]."

Rabin pointed out that "the violent, virulent incitement against Yitzhak went on for a whole year. There were all those awful incitement demonstrations and one, a whole year before the murder, in which they lit candles in his memory."

Rabin called on Education Minister Zevulun Hammer to make it clear to all those "who sit studying the Torah, that there is also democracy... If we don't preserve the foundations of democracy, we will soon find ourselves in a clerical state of which we will all be ashamed."

Hammer yesterday appointed a committee chaired by Ozer Schild, head of the Education Ministry's pedagogical secretariat, to investigate the alleged scandal.

Hammer said the formation of such a club at the school, which belongs to the NRP-backed state religious educational system, was "grave" but should not be considered part of a general phenomenon in the state religious system.

"I'm sure this is just a youthful craze," Hammer was quoted as saying in an interview with Israel Army radio. "These are silly teenagers and I'm sure that the same thing could have happened with regard to some other area of life. It has nothing to do with nationalist or religious factors, of that I'm sure. It would be a blood libel to say that this is integral to religious education... [Since the murder] we have done some soul-searching."

The principal of the school, Rachel Buhbut, said she hoped and was "quite convinced" that the Amir fan club was not a widespread phenomenon but limited in her school to the two pupils who belonged to it.

Buhbut said she had found out about their activities by chance, when she questioned one of the girls about her frequent absences from the school. On one occasion, the girl skipped class to attend Amir's trial. Buhbut said that after ques-

Labor demands probe

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S Knesset faction yesterday denounced the teenage adoration of Rabin assassin Yigal Amir and demanded an in-depth investigation into the scope of the phenomenon, which it said is "not a political but a state issue."

Labor Chairman Shimon Peres said "Israeli society cannot rest for one moment until this is uprooted. It constitutes an awful danger which every civilized nation must fight against."

He said the worship for Amir is part of a process "poisoning the souls of young boys and girls... You can intoxicate an entire generation without drugs," Peres said.

He drew a link between the radical elements undermining democracy with those attacking the justice system and attempting to shake its independence. "It's [a process] undermining the deepest foundations and institutions of freedom of speech, the independence of the justice system and our very existence."

At a stormy meeting, members of Labor's faction expressed shock at the exposure of the fan club. They came out in sharp criticism of the religious state education system, which they said isolates its pupils from outside democratic influence, and called for an end to the separation between secular and religious education.

MK Ori Orr said "these are not wild weeds, these are nurseries... not only in the religious state schools but also in some of the yeshivot."

MK Moshe Shahal said "Rabin's murder was not born of one person called Yigal Amir. It's not a problem of the education system or even of kippa wearers. I'm talking of the extreme right wing. Fact: no one from the left ever murdered anyone from the right. Fact: a prime minister in Israel was murdered. And the murder would not have been possible had it not been for the legitimization which preceded it and is continuing."

The MKs noted that Rabin's assassination and the incitement which preceded it were minimized in the party's election campaign, in order not to hurt certain groups.

HAS THE GOLD RUSH BEGUN?

On July 9, world-renowned investment analyst Brian Marber advised subscribers in his newsletter, *The Marber Report*, to buy spot gold at \$383 per ounce or better (October gold equivalent \$386).

Since that prediction, October gold has risen to a high of \$393.50 per ounce. That means a potential profit of \$750 per contract on an initial investment of \$1350 - more than a 55% potential return in one month.

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Russian troops advance on Chechen rebels

ADVANCING Russian troops battled Chechen separatists yesterday in Grozny, trying to retake the Chechen capital and end the bloody confrontation...

News agencies GROZNY

Chechnya, to find a way to resolve the crisis in the separatist republic, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Fierce battles were reported on the city outskirts yesterday, and the Interfax news agency said some Russian soldiers had advanced within one km of besieged government buildings in the center.

But rebels still appeared in control of the city center, with the Russians failing to gain the upper hand in heavy street battles.

The military's failure to oust the separatists has embarrassed Yeltsin, who promised during the election campaign this spring that he would end the deeply unpopular war.

Yeltsin, who was sworn into office Friday for a second term, ordered a criminal probe into the events in Grozny and charged Chernomyrdin with determining who is responsible for the military debacle.

Yeltsin himself has blamed it, in part, on "grave miscalculations" by Russian officials and the pro-Moscow Chechen government.

Russian aircraft and artillery have pounded the ruined Chechen capital throughout the week. Buildings, including the seat of the Moscow-backed Chechen government, have burned and at least two city hospitals have been hit by heavy shelling.

The casualty toll continued to mount, with the federal command reporting up to 200 servicemen killed and 800 wounded since the separatist offensive began Tuesday.

The separatists said 29 Chechen fighters have been killed and about 50 wounded. The Russians claim hundreds of separatists have died.

Civilians, as throughout the Chechen war, have suffered in the fighting. No reliable casualty estimates were available.

Rebels reported destroying 200 Russian armored vehicles and capturing 10, including four tanks, which they have used against the Russians.

Russian soldiers overran Grozny's main, 400-bed hospital on Saturday. Separatists accused the troops of using wounded Chechens as shields to hold off Chechen fighters, while Russian officials said the soldiers were trying to evacuate civilians from the combat zone.

With hospitals running short of medicine, food and water, the international Committee of the Red Cross pleaded with the warring sides to guarantee the safety of trucks ready to bring in the needed supplies.

A handful of journalists and an unspecified number of civilians remained trapped in a government hotel in central Grozny, but two Russian journalists made it safely out of the city overnight, carrying out their colleagues' film and television footage.

The attack on Grozny was the rebels' largest offensive since March, when they also seized some sections of the city.



Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, surrounded by security, addresses thousands of people who attended a rally outside City Hall in Belfast yesterday marking the 25th anniversary of the introduction of internment.

Belfast march noisy but peaceful

BELFAST (Reuters) - Thousands of pro-Irish Nationalists marched through the streets of Belfast yesterday in a noisy but non-violent demonstration seen as a test of the uneasy calm in sectarian Northern Ireland.

Police in riot gear backed by armored four-wheel-drive vehicles were positioned along the parade route to keep the Roman Catholic marchers and Protestants supporting British rule in the province apart.

The marchers whistled and screamed insults at Protestant demonstrators at one point. But the police cordon held and the Catholic procession of several thousand people reached Belfast's city hall without major incident.

The demonstrators dispersed quietly after about two hours. Bands dressed in varying shades of green played Irish marches and flew the green, white and orange Irish tricolor.

The arrests provoked large-scale riots, in which more than 20 people died, and fired Nationalists' deep distrust of their Protestant rulers and of Britain for backing them.

It gave new impetus to disorganized Irish Republican Army guerrillas in their campaign against British rule. The unsuccessful and hugely unpopular policy was abandoned in 1975.

Speakers told the demonstrators it was time Nationalists were taken seriously, and demanded that Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, be included in multi-party talks about the future of the province.

Sinn Fein is excluded until the IRA restores a ceasefire abandoned in February. "Nationalists and Republicans stand ready to take risks for peace," said Margaret McKenna, a local Sinn Fein councillor.

MoGuinness, a Sinn Fein councillor, told the crowd. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said successful negotiations over yesterday's march in Londonderry - organizers managed to defuse a feared confrontation - showed that all groups should be included in talks.

"It vindicates and validates what Sinn Fein have been saying all along - that the way to resolve political problems is through dialogue," he told Reuters before the march.

Police said they had defused a standoff in the tiny village of Bellaghy, where several hundred Catholic villagers were blocking about 80 Protestants trying to make an annual procession to their church.

"People here are deeply offended by Loyalist (pro-British) parades," said Margaret McKenna, a local Sinn Fein councillor.

Italy soul searches over its Jews

ROME (AP) - The outcry over the handling of a former SS captain's war crimes trial here is drawing attention to hundreds of languishing cases of Nazi violence in Italy as well as appeals for the nation to finally examine its relationship with Jews.

"It's true, we have a debt with the Jews," Corriere della Sera yesterday headlined the debate on calls for Italians to do some honest introspection about the treatment of Jews under fascism.

The military tribunal's decision Aug. 1 that former Nazi Capt. Erich Priebke should go free despite being convicted of helping in the massacre of 335 civilians in 1944 touched off a night of rioting by Jewish youths at the courthouse and a flurry of consultations to find a way to keep the 83-year-old German in custody.

But justice authorities' solution to defuse the crisis - rearrest Priebke so Germany could seek his extradition - did not close the painful chapter of how Jews fared under Italian fascism and later Nazi occupation.

Yesterday, Sen. Francesco D'Onofrio, a former Christian Democrat, wrote in Corriere della Sera that he "substantially shared" the harsh assessment in the same Milan daily by one of Italy's foremost commentators, Ernesto Galli della Loggia.

In a front-page piece three days earlier, Galli della Loggia contended that what Jews were really angry about was not the Priebke verdict itself. Rather, he asserted, Jews were crying out for "truth and justice" about the "wound that in 1938 lacerated the relationship between Italian Judaism and the conscience of the nation."

He was referring to the anti-Jewish laws of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to keep Jews segregated and out of prominent positions.

In reviewing the '30s and '40s, Italians often focus on the strong anti-fascist resistance posed by Communists and other leftists, but generally gloss over how easily the anti-Jewish laws took hold. "It is hoped for that the debate opened by Galli della Loggia's article will be enriched by debates, analyses, suggestions and initiatives," D'Onofrio urged.

3 killed in Philippines volcano eruption

BACOLOD, Philippines (AP) - Rescuers yesterday brought down the last surviving climbers trapped on Mount Canlaon after it suddenly erupted, hurling rocks and ash down its slopes and killing three people.

Killed in the 24-minute eruption Saturday were Julian Green from Britain and two Filipinos, Noel Trajico and Neil Perez.

Rescuers last night said there had been 21 climbers on the mountain - hot 26 as earlier reported. Three were killed, 10 injured, and the rest unharmed.

Military helicopters plucked the three dead bodies and the 13 survivors who spent the cold night on the upper slopes of the 2,435-meter volcano because they were too weak to climb down.

They were airlifted from the rim of the volcano's crater down to Bacolod yesterday, said Sergeant Lito Lopez.

Canlaon, on Negros island in the central Philippines, is 520 km southeast of Manila.

Worried Republicans set to greet Dole and Kemp

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) - A worried Republican party was ready yesterday to cast off its fears and greet Bob Dole, the stumbling presidential candidate who surprised sceptics by picking a popular party figure for his running mate.

Dole and Jack Kemp headed for the Republican National Convention by boat with tens of thousands of party faithful lining up on the pier to welcome them.

It will be a hero's entry for a candidate lagging behind President Bill Clinton by 20 percentage points or more in most opinion polls. The event will also mark the start of a four-day love-fest that analysts see as Dole's best chance to turn the 1996 presidential contest into a real horse race.

In a warmup for what Republicans hope will be an optimistic, positive convention, the throng of journalists who have converged on San Diego were entertained with a huge fireworks display over the harbor on Saturday night, ending with patriotic music.

The Republicans hope a successful convention will convince Americans, many of whom are turned off by the party and its often lackluster candidate, to take a second look at the former World War II hero who has tried for 16 years to become president.

As the convention prepared to open, a new Washington Post poll showed Dole had cut Clinton's lead to 10 points, the narrowest margin in months. "Forget the polls. The polls will eventually take care of themselves. What is important is that we now have the right message and the right messengers," an admiring Steve Forbes, one of the candidates defeated by Dole in the grueling Republican Party primaries, said.

The millionaire publisher was one of many Republicans who felt energized by Dole's choice of Kemp, a conservative Republican in the Ronald Reagan mode.

But Forbes, a close friend of Kemp's, was also enthusiastic about Dole's shift to a pro-growth economic policy that calls for a 15 percent tax cut spread over three years. "We now have a programme to win," he said.

Also taking heart was prominent party conservative Bill Kristol, who said the choice of Kemp "takes the Dole campaign off the critical list."

In Republican ranks the discordant notes came mainly from die-hard Pat Buchanan, the right-wing ideologue who refuses to endorse Dole. Denied the prominent speaking slot he sought at the convention, he was set yesterday to hold his own alternative Republican rally in San Diego.

Dole called Kemp an "American original" as he introduced him to his hometown of Russell, Kansas, on Saturday, and a proud Kemp promised to do everything he could to help Dole win. A jubilant Dole slammed a fist in the air as Kemp finished his comments.

The party goes into its 36th national convention worried not only about winning the White House from a Democrat who has cleverly co-opted many of its issues but about retaining its majority in both houses of Congress.

GAME TIME

HISTORY OF CHESS - by Victor Keats, world-renowned expert

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Handwritten note in Arabic: 'انا من الاصل'

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A long road ahead

IN recruiting Jack F. Kemp as his running mate, presidential hopeful Senator Bob Dole undoubtedly hopes a "Republican JFK" can inject some life into a campaign which may have provided fodder for stand-up comics for several months, but which has failed to light any fires under the public or the media.

No doubt the Republicans will have a free ride at their convention this week to wallow in the usual euphoria, extravagant expectations and hype. The severe test will come in the aftermath if the Dole campaign nosesives from whatever poll boost the media attention brings.

The main hope resting on Kemp is that his presence on the ticket will patch over potentially dangerous divisions in the Republican Party - at least for long enough to wrest the White House from Clinton. Kemp is an advocate of what he calls "compassionate conservatism" and in a past interview he warned the Republicans they were getting dangerously close to telling Americans that all the country needs is "little government and big prisons."

Democrats already are chucking with glee over their collection of Kemp quotes and sound bites being readied for the advertising campaign. Kemp is now teamed up with a presidential candidate he has described as devoid of any vision, hopeless, divisive and who "never met a tax he didn't hike."

If this all sounds too radically liberal to the Christian right-wing that has become a powerful force in American conservatism, Kemp has a solid pro-life record to present as credentials in that camp - he and his wife are also devout Christians.

Such fine fodder for the opposition campaign might be more amusing than dangerous if there were not so many other things wrong with Dole campaign. More serious is the long feud over economics between Dole and Kemp.

Yet the party also hopes Kemp can penetrate what is almost alien territory to the Republican Right - the black, Hispanic, Jewish and Irish communities, as well as the disadvantaged working class. He is definitely unusual as a conservative Republican for being a long-time campaigner for serious investment and job-creation policies in the inner cities.

But there is no doubt that, in general, what Kemp brings to the Dole campaign is the chance to cast its net wider for elusive middle-ground voters. He is a talented and witty speaker compared to the soporific mumbling of Dole and if there are two things the Republican ticket badly needs, they are wider appeal and vigor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BLATANT PREJUDICE

Sir, - Hillel Halkin appears to be this undulating vendetta against the Eul national Religious community. In field article of July 26 (subsequent to "agonistic remarks in earlier columns," he claims that its adherents "are a danger to society and have the potential to commit political murder, backing up this assertion with "the reminder that Yigal Amir and "march Goldstein belonged to this community."

Every fair-minded person knows CO government that the National Religious Eacogwell stresses the importance fan,f positive values such as a love of jandtry and roots and a pride in ganense, and emphatically repudiates honse use of violence. It is a total relevance that Amir and Goldstein conere connected to the National Reliigious community (as are some half a spoolion Israeli citizens), and for Mr. Coalkin to launch a vicious attack aggon the entire community, which is ritually charged with being a carreading ground for murderers, points to an attitude of blatant prejoiince on the part of the writer.

URS BINYAMIN

UNSOLICITED ADVICE

Sir, - I am shocked and dismayed read in The Jerusalem Post of lovey 29 that a number of leading Meaglo-Jewish personages have menade political statements to a non-wish newspaper advocating the bakthe vision of Jerusalem and ceding the bakplan Heights.

It is disgraceful for the Board of apitutes of British Jews, the lay wileadership of Anglo-Jewry, to exless blatantly biased opinions which run contrary to Israeli governent policy. I served two three-year playams and later part of another one the board when it was their polirules never to attack or criticize any small government.

BILL OAKFIELD

TV NEWS IN ENGLISH

Sir, - I strongly protest at the disgraceful way in which the IBA treats the news in English. For the slightest reason, the news is canceled or rescheduled, without prior warning, usually because of international sport, be it soccer, tennis or the Olympics. I am an avid follower and supporter of all sports, but take exception to the omission of the news in English at the slightest whim of a faceless executive in IBA.

GERRY LEIGH

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Sir, - In order to change the un-disciplined and inadequately trained Israel driver, we can learn from the new made compulsory in New York State for drivers caught speeding or involved in accidents. This is enhanced by the voluntary program urged by the insurance companies which offer an incentive of 10 percent discount on yearly insurance premiums for all insured drivers who attend the program.

DR. JOSEPH KATZ

Hadera (New York)

TEN YEARS IS ENOUGH

Sir, - I am deeply pained by the disgraceful way in which the IBA treats the news in English. For the slightest reason, the news is canceled or rescheduled, without prior warning, usually because of international sport, be it soccer, tennis or the Olympics.

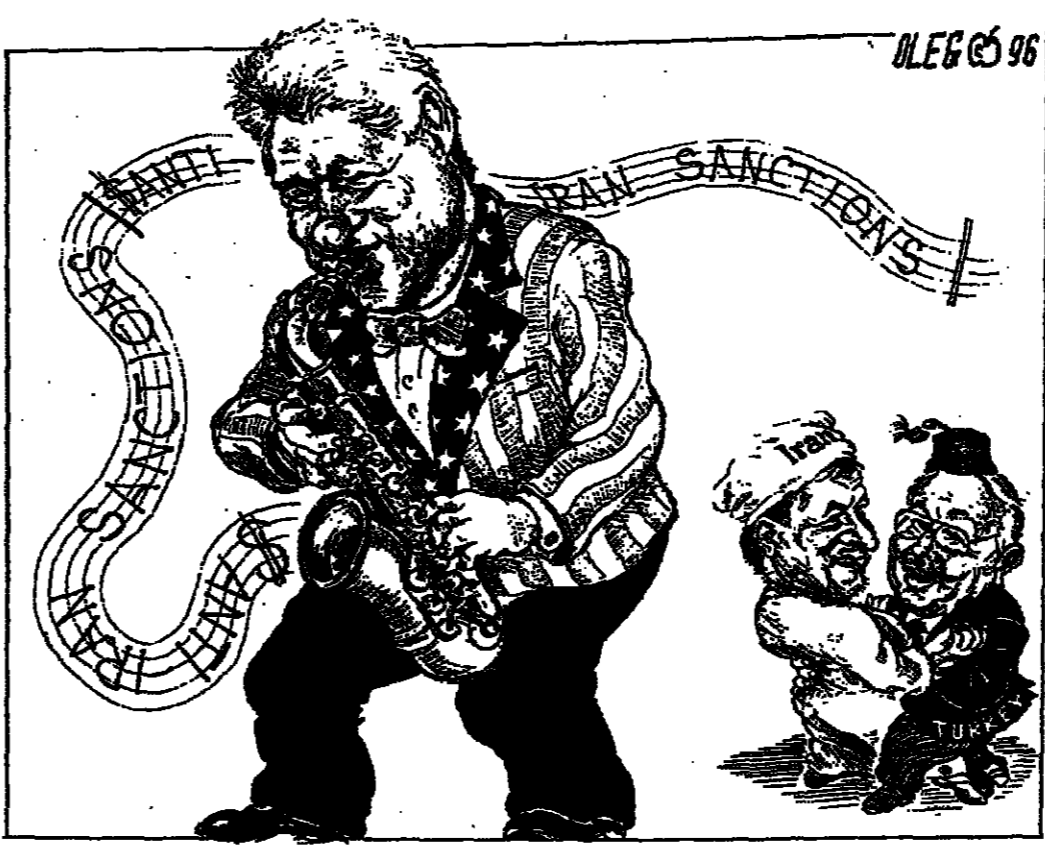
TOBY WILLIG

DR. GISELLA PERL

Sir, - Showtime, in conjunction with Paramount Pictures, is producing a movie based on the life of dr. Gisella Perl, a survivor of the Holocaust. Originally from Sighet, Hungary, Dr. Perl aided many of her fellow inmates while imprisoned in Auschwitz (1944-1945) and Bergen-Belsen (just prior to liberation).

MARCIA MAGUS, Researcher

Ottendale, California



Fanning the flames

ONE of the most shocking features shown recently on Israel Television was an interview on last Friday's news magazine with three young women from Kiryat Gat. The three, all high school students, spoke of their admiration for Yigal Amir, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin.

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Nobody seems to be reminding children that one of the 10 commandments is: You shall not kill

The 10 commandments is: You shall not kill. You shall not kill your neighbor, you shall not kill a Jew, you shall not kill an Arab and you shall not kill your prime minister.

Relevance not reverence

AS a lifelong Jewish epikoros (heretic) one of my favorite Jewish anecdotes concerns the turn of the century founder of the Mussar (Jewish morality) Movement, Rabbi Israel Salanter. When Rabbi Salanter, who by standards of devoutness would certainly qualify today as a haredi Jew, migrated to the US one of his tasks was to supervise the baking of extra-kosher shmura matza for Passah.

YOSEF GOELL

For the status of Bible studies to be restored, they must be taught critically by secular teachers, who do not regard it as a holy book

When Hammer served as education minister in the previous Likud government he approached the daunting task of being an Orthodox minister of education for a largely non-Orthodox population very gingerly.

The reason for this sad turn of events lies in the vastly different interpretations of what constitutes Jewishness.

Spot the pain

LISA FRYDMAN

Dear Aviv Gefen, I confess I missed your wedding. But while you were escorting your bride down the aisle, I hung out with a couple hundred of your fans at the so-called hippest film in town Trainspotting.

It didn't matter that it was clearly a Generation X flick, as a pop culture junkie, I ran to get my fix. The low-budget movie was one of the most talked about at Cannes this year, and has reached near cult proportion in the US and Europe.

Adapted from Irvine Welsh's highly controversial novel, Trainspotting features a band of depraved young Scottish heroin addicts with chopped hair and overindulged veins. The leading man, a cross between REM's Michael Stipes and a punk Gummy, journeys from hallucination to falling from higher than high. Without giving too much away, happily, he ends up "choosing life" with his feet firmly planted into reality.

The reaction of the youth exiting the theater haunted me all week. Images of excitement, shared smiles, piqued interest. The why-not-let's-try-it buzz swarmed all around me, before the realization stung: a trend from Out There is eyeing our young generation once again.

It's a matter of time and maths before the heroin craze hits here

ed by the Beautiful People - will soon rear its ugly head here. It's a matter of time and mathematics. All one has to do is add up the escalated number of heroin busts here this past year, multiply that statistic by the outrageous number of acid party fiestas, add in the number of Ecstasy factories, and then factor in Goa.

We cannot prevent our teens and wannabe adults from experimenting or succumbing to peer pressure. Many say the answer starts at home. Yet sometimes, home base just isn't enough.

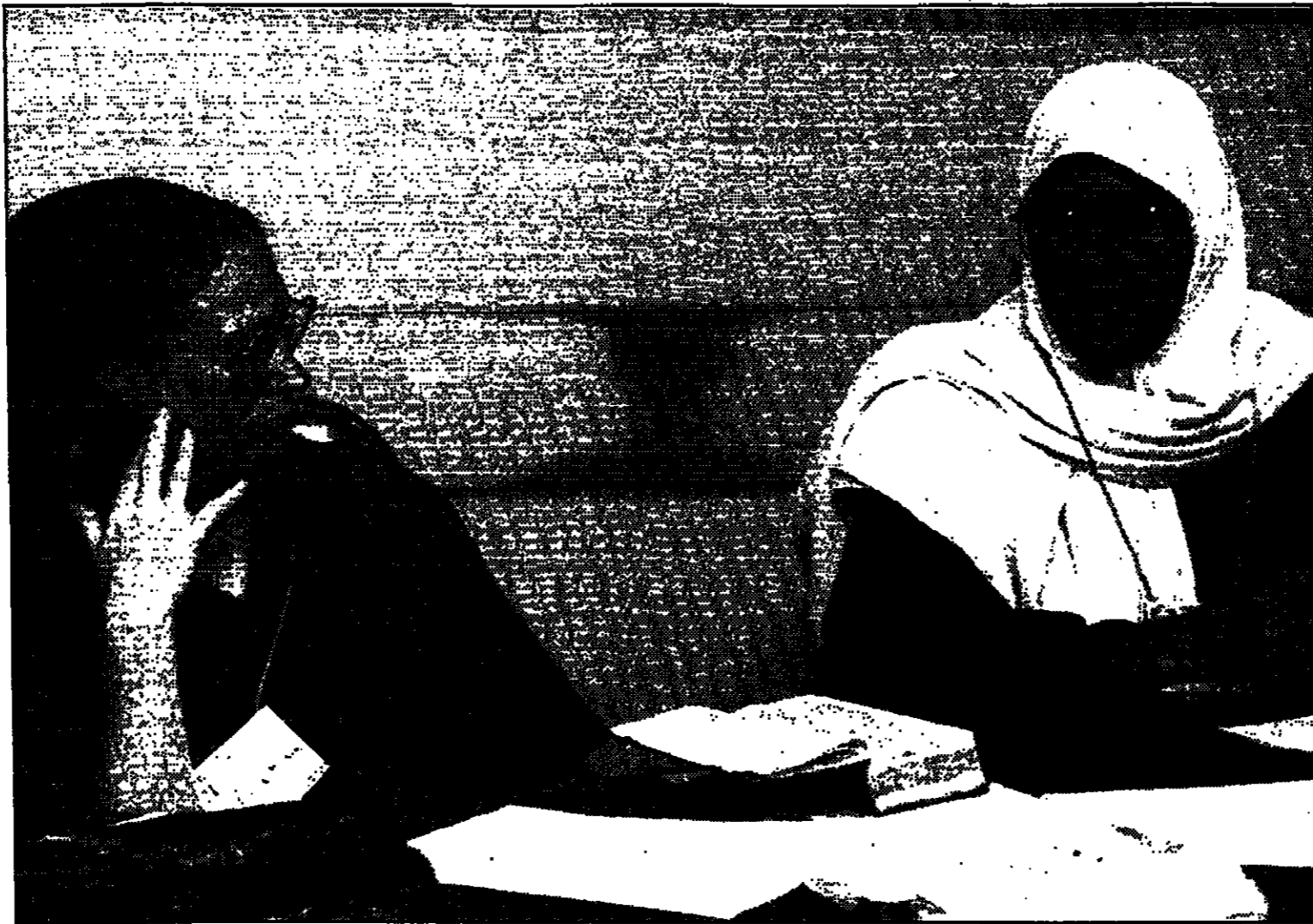
The writer is a freelancer

Poor Loser Class Wa

It's H

Diaspora Jewry to Israel: Don't write us off

At the recent CAJE conference in Jerusalem, Abraham Rabinovich found that contrary to conventional wisdom, Diaspora Jewish identity may not be dying



Gilla Rosen listens to Nadia Natoul as she teaches Islam to a class at the CAJE conference.

(Brian Hendler)

AMID the good cheer and ebullient Yiddishkeit, a disturbing thought stole upon an observer watching the largest-ever gathering in Israel of Diaspora Jewish educators enjoying a celebratory evening on the Jerusalem promenade last week.

Were these 1,700 enthusiastic teachers - some of them dancing to Israeli music on the loud-speakers - heralds of the Jewish future or anachronistic survivors of an irretrievably lost past?

"The Jewish education network is a finger in the dike," declared David Harman, director-general of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, which services Diaspora schools around the world. "Education alone can't turn the tide."

The tide he was talking about on the eve of the conference was Jewish identity in the Diaspora. In the US, more Jews die every year than are born. The intermarriage rate is 52 percent. While 6% of non-Jewish spouses convert to Judaism, 11% of Jews in mixed marriages convert out. No more than 20% of American Jews have ever been to Israel. Only half those children who are born Jewish receive any formal Jewish education - and then, for the most part, only a smattering. Fewer than 100 teachers are produced annually by American Jewish teachers' seminars.

"One of the biggest problems in the US is that very few kids go on to Jewish secondary schools where one's identity is usually formed," said Harman, whose Jerusalem-based organization co-sponsored last week's conference with the American organization CAJE - The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education.

"A family in which Jewishness plays a small role will send a kid off to three or four years of supplementary school before his bar mitzva as a sort of a rite of passage. But if the kid doesn't live in a Jewish environment the chances of his becoming very Jewish are extremely slim."

While the Orthodox community in America is more than holding its own, the bulk of American Jewry is struggling to retain its identity amid the

powerful lures of the non-Jewish environment. The struggle, Harman acknowledged, is uphill. "Many communities don't care about Jewish education and just give lip service to it," he said.

The mordant thoughts evoked by the bald statistics were not entirely shared by participants in the conference themselves.

"No, the situation is not desperate," said Benzy Cogen, principal of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School, which has 300 students.

"Jewish day schools are growing. Jewish camping is growing by leaps and bounds. High school education is growing. The quality of program-

ming in many schools is much better than it was five, 10 years ago. Every Jewish adolescent is searching for something in terms of religious-spiritual growth, in terms of identity. Every kid is ripe for growing into a Jew."

But only 10% to 15% of Jewish school-age children in his area receive a serious Jewish education, Cogen acknowledged. Only a third of the 600,000 Jews in Los Angeles are affiliated with a synagogue and only about half of the children of even these affiliated families receive a Jewish education.

The future? "I think Jewish consciousness will

remain about the same," answers Cogen. "Camps and Sunday schools will remain strong. The people who will get lost will be those who study just for the bar mitzva. What we will have is a smaller core of more committed Jews. I'm not sure what the ramifications of that are."

A VERY different picture was presented by Jewish educators from the former Communist bloc attending the conference.

"We are at the beginning of a process which is going to see the number of children educated in Jewish schools expanding," said Dr. Anna

Szeszler, director of a Jewish school in Budapest which has 600 children from kindergarten through high school.

It is difficult to say how many Jews live in Budapest, she said, because of the loss of Jewish identity over the years and intermarriage. However, the number is expanding. In the six years since the collapse of communism, three Jewish schools have opened in the Hungarian capital.

"Many parents who didn't know how to express their Jewishness are beginning to find their own roots," said Szeszler, whose grandparents were killed in Auschwitz. "The children are teaching their parents. I see it happening." She does not speak Hebrew, but her children do.

In the countries of the former Soviet Union, notes Harman, close to 100,000 people are involved in Jewish education programs. "There has been an absolute renaissance in Jewish education there. Starting from nothing, there are now 40 day schools, 40 Sunday schools, 250 ulpanim and many summer camps."

Some Jewish communities in other parts of the world have succeeded in retaining a high level of Jewish consciousness, he noted. In Mexico, 85% of the community's youngsters attend Jewish schools through 12th grade and there is relatively little intermarriage. In Australia, the Jewish community is actually growing, thanks to immigration from South Africa, and because 75% of youngsters attend Jewish high schools. Elsewhere, Jewish communities are shrinking. The notable exception, of course, is Israel, which is booming demographically and serves as a major communal anchor for world Jewry.

SOME OF the American participants in the conference argued that appearances of assimilation in the largest Diaspora country are deceiving. "I think Jewish consciousness is increasing," said Dr. Barry Lever of Baltimore, a dentist who also teaches Jewish subjects in an afternoon school run by the Conservative movement. "Twenty years ago we didn't have a kosher restaurant in town. Now we have seven."

For many of the youngsters who drop out of Jewish education after their bar mitzva, he said, Jewish consciousness kicks in during their university years when they take Jewish studies courses. Many converts to Judaism have also become active members in the community.

"Orthodox growth is incredible and my own Conservative congregation is growing so fast we can't sell you a membership - there are no seats in the synagogue left."

"Whatever is happening, the 'pintele yid' [the nucleus of Jewish consciousness] is still there. There is a conscious effort to pass on our tradition. Don't write us off."

The president's power of pardon

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before Justices Theodore Orr, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dornier, in the matter of Meir Eindor and The Terror Victims Organization, petitioners, versus the Israel Government and Minister of Justice, respondents (H.C.5205/96).

THE petitioners moved the Supreme Court to set aside State President Ezer Weizmann's decision of July 19, 1996, under section 11(b) of the Basic Law: The President of the State, of 1964, to reduce the life sentence of two women terrorists convicted of murder.

In delivering judgment, the court pointed out that the President had acted on the justice minister's recommendation based upon the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Authority relating to the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The release, however, had been delayed pending the court's decision. Citing numerous precedents, the court reiterated that the president, in exercising his wide discretion relating to the pardon of prisoners or the reduction of their sentences, was entitled to weigh grounds of state policy. He was justified, therefore, in including international agreements concerning the release of prisoners to which it was a party.

The full facts relating to the prisoners' actions, in all their gravity, were before the president. At the same time the minister, in his recommendation, relied upon the above agreement under which Israel had consented to the release

LAW REPORT ASHER FELIX LANDAU

of Palestinian women prisoners as a confidence-building measure between the parties.

In all the circumstances, the court held, no fault could be found either with the minister's recommendation or with the president's exercise of his discretion. There was, therefore, no basis for the court's intervention.

For the above reasons, the petition was dismissed. The petitioners appeared in person, and Malchiel Blass, Senior Assistant State Attorney, appeared for the government and the minister. The judgment was given on July 24, 1996.

PAROLE BOARD DECISION SET ASIDE

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the President Justice Aharon Barak, the Deputy-President Justice Shlomo Levin, and Justice Dalia Dornier, in the matter of The Attorney-General, petitioner, versus Ya'acov Haim Alperon, respondent (H.C.5319/96).

Alperon, aged about 42, has a number of previous convictions mostly for crimes of violence. He was sentenced to various prison terms, but in most cases the parole board authorized his early release. After each case, however, he returned to a life of crime.

He was last sentenced to various prison terms for serious crimes amounting in all to some seven years.

On July 21, 1996, the parole board at the Ma'asiyahu prison, chaired by a district court judge, again authorized his early release, and the attorney general petitioned the court to set that decision aside.

Fourthly, the board should not have refused to receive Levy's second letter; the court, with Alperon's consent, had read it, and it appeared he had written the first letter without having seen the intelligence material submitted to the board.

In conclusion, Justice Levin held that the board had failed to give proper weight to the heavy burden resting on Alperon of justifying his early release, and its reliance on Levy's first letter and on the intelligence material could not be supported. It should, therefore, have refused the application.

The petition was subsequently allowed, and the board's decision was set aside. Alperon would be entitled to renew his application to the board one year after the board's decision.

Orit Koren, Senior Assistant State Attorney, appeared for the attorney general, and Eli Cohea and Yarom Halevy appeared for Alperon.

The judgment was given on July 28, 1996.

examined the classified material before the board and had received oral explanations, it had, contrary to the board, formed a negative impression of Alperon's conduct.

Thirdly, Leder's first letter did not support Alperon's early release and, moreover, he had submitted a second letter of clarification.

Fourthly, the board should not have refused to receive Levy's second letter; the court, with Alperon's consent, had read it, and it appeared he had written the first letter without having seen the intelligence material submitted to the board.

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IN the period since the breakup of the Soviet Union, much information has come to light, some of it shocking and most of it carefully concealed for decades.

Such is the news that a sunken submarine carrying plutonium-laden warheads is lying at the bottom of the sea a few kilometers off the coast of Norway. Recent inspection reveals that the casings of the missiles are seriously eroded and may disintegrate at any moment. Should this happen, the results would be too horrible to imagine.

The entry of plutonium, which is highly soluble in sea water, into the waters of this great and rich fishing area would probably sterilize the entire marine food chain over an area of many hundreds of square kilometers. It would most likely damage a hefty proportion of the world's sea-based food supply.

Plans are under way to try to encase the warheads in a sarcophagus of special concrete that sets underwater.

The warheads are too far gone to risk trying to lift them from the sea.

But even the sarcophagus idea is fraught with problems and one of them is how to get a proper layer of the containment under the crumbling weapons.

Marine engineers are still locked in debate about the advis-

EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

ability of digging under the missiles or trying to shift them gently onto a prepared concrete floor before enclosure.

In any case, the project is going to cost many millions of dollars and it is the Western nations that, as usual, have to foot the bill. I say as usual because at the moment, vast sums are being spent by international agencies, all funded by the capitalist countries, in order to shore up the crumbling nuclear reactors in the former USSR and its satellite countries before they too go the way of Chernobyl.

Nowhere is the former USSR's responsibility mentioned. Everyone knows that these states are bankrupt. Well, so was Germany at the end of World War II but as soon as it was on its financial feet the German people got the bill - and a hefty bill it was.

The USSR also lost a costly war - the Cold War - and it seems strange that everyone seems to feel that bygone are just that and no account needs to be made.

But they should be called to account, and as soon as the countries of the former USSR are able, they should be obliged to pay compensation. These damages were caused by shoddy reactors, concealed evidence of serious mishaps like the sunken submarine or the illegal whaling carried out for decades with ships contrived to create a vapor cloud making satellite photos impossible.

This plot, only recently discovered, rendered all information on whaling and whale population invalid and meant that the multi-millions spent on research were simply wasted.

Today, there is no choice but to address the problems and to try to prevent disasters. But that is not enough. The culpable countries must accept their responsibility and pay the bill.

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The Nation

Big Man in Congress: Kennedy, of All People

By ADAM CLYMER

WHEN the legislative record of the 104th Congress is complete, the names of Republicans like Newt Gingrich, John Kasich, Bill Archer, Bob Livingston, Tom Bliley, Pete Domenici and Bob Dole will dominate it — along with that of a Democrat whom most of them have battled or disdained during their careers.

Probably not since Senator Everett Dirksen and Representative William McCulloch provided a critical balance in getting civil rights bills passed in the 1960's has any member of the Congressional minority influenced the agenda as much as Edward M. Kennedy has this year.

He led the effort to raise the Federal minimum wage and, allied with Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican, pushed through legislation to help people take their health insurance coverage from job to job and limit pre-existing condition exclusions.

But beyond that, he played what the Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle calls a dominant role in shaping the Democrats' 1995 defenses on education and Medicare, successes that set the stage for this year's occasional victories. "I don't know anybody who contributed more," Mr. Daschle said.

The two bills he is identified with, along with serious spending cuts and legislation that the Republicans pushed through on welfare, telecommunications and farm price supports, have freed this Congress from the "do-nothing" label Mr. Daschle and others sought to hang on it. But after the 1994 Republican landslide, indeed even at the end of last year, no one would have bet that a Kennedy trademark would be anywhere on this Congress's record.

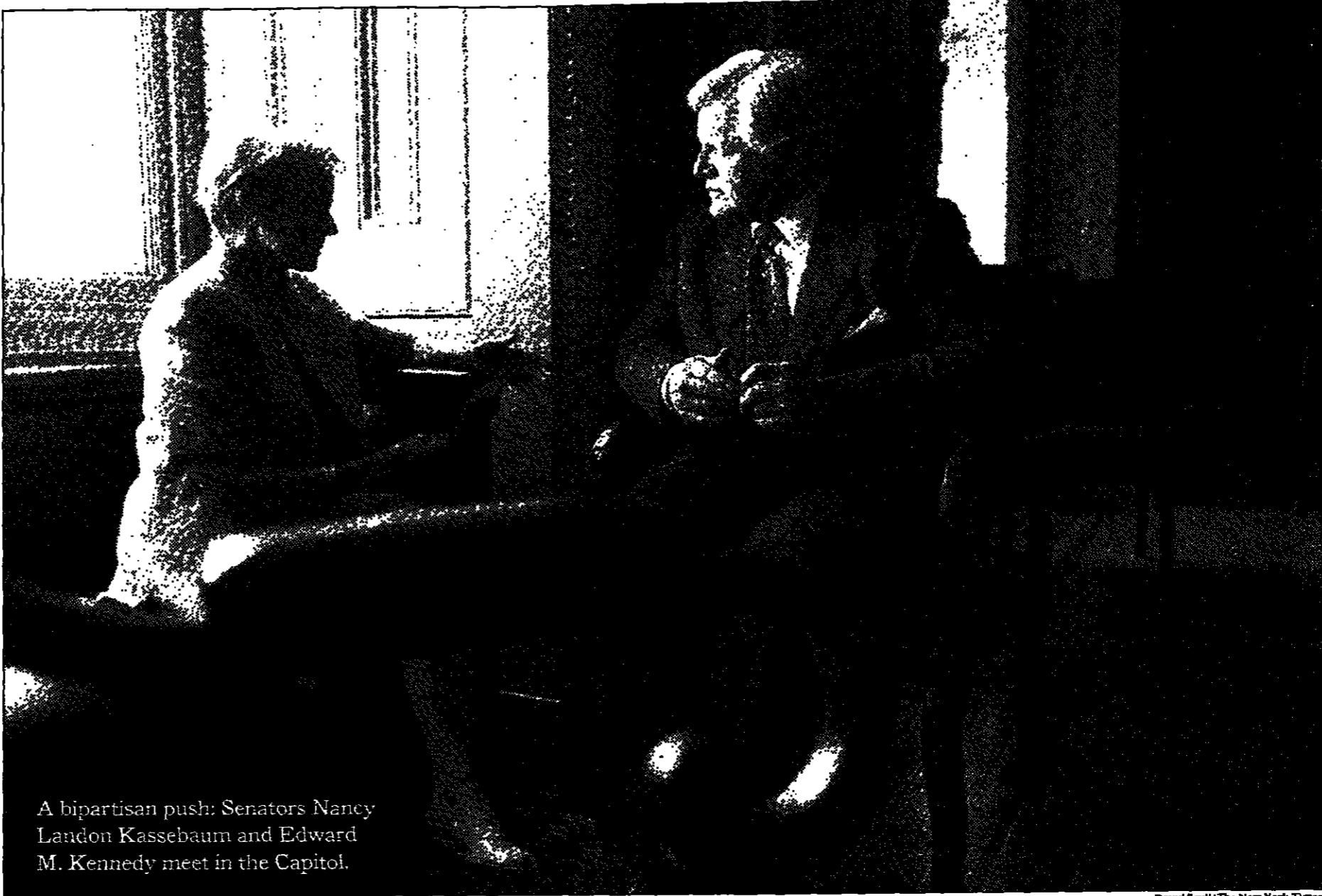
Not Just Hope

Mr. Kennedy said last week that Aug. 2, the day the minimum-wage and insurance bills were finally passed, was the most satisfying day of legislation in his 32 years in the Senate. "When you know that as a result of a legislative change people's lives are going to be different, and for the better," he said, "I think you have got something very tangible." Other important measures, he said, involved voting for "hope" — like the hope of ending discrimination or war.

The road toward the statute books was very different for the two measures. Raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 from \$4.25 over two years was essentially a partisan project. Agreement among Democrats was essential, and came about after Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Daschle scaled back a proposal calling for a rate of \$5.75 (after three years) and regular cost-of-living adjustments.

The route was straight ahead, battering the Republicans with an issue that enjoys the support of four of five Americans, until Mr. Gingrich, and then Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, decided the time had come to give in and move on.

But the health insurance bill required bipartisan support. Here, Senator Kassebaum's determination was even more critical than Mr. Kennedy's. While disagreeing sharply with him on many issues, Senator Kassebaum has worked with him toward many bipartisan agreements since the failed health care effort of 1994.



A bipartisan push: Senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Edward M. Kennedy meet in the Capitol.

David Scull/The New York Times

Together, they focused on the issues that attracted most public support. Without her making clear to other Republicans, like Mr. Dole, "that it was a priority for her," Mr. Kennedy said, "I think it would have been very, very difficult. It was difficult enough."

Before it was over, Mr. Kennedy not only had to deal with a familiar Senate moderate, but he also had to negotiate the end-game with Mr. Archer, a hard-bargaining House conservative whom he did not know at all. "He was a tough bargainer," Mr. Archer said. "I feel like I am a tough bargainer, too. We resolved it, I think, as gentlemen."

Some of that is experience in how the Congress really works, learned over a career in which he pro-

gressed from an effective free-lancer on many issues to the Senate's dominant force on health legislation, and then civil rights and education. Ross Baker, a professor of political science at Rutgers University, said of Mr. Kennedy, "I guess that what is so astonishing is the period of history that this man fills — from the Senate of Ev Dirksen and Jim Eastland to the Senate of Paul Wellstone and Rick Santorum."

"It's not just occupying a seat — but to have had an influence to varying degrees on important aspects of public policy over nearly 40 years ranks with the Henry Clays and Daniel Websters."

But Senator Kennedy's latest successes also result from more recent activity that softened up the Republi-

can majorities and left them feeling they needed to enact some legislation if they were going to be re-elected. Mr. Kennedy, whose hard-won campaign for re-election in Massachusetts two years ago had stressed simple Democratic themes like jobs and health care and education, played a major role in that party effort. As Democrats awoke from a sense of hurt and bewilderment over the 1994 results, he urged them to make an issue out of education and Medicare.

Mr. Daschle recalls his constant presence: "I wanted everybody to feel engaged in the process. But it seemed like virtually the consistent figure in every task force at every meeting was Ted Kennedy. He was really like this enthusiastic freshman looking for more work."

Kemp, and Other Political Footballers

A Quarterback Who Doesn't Like Warming the Bench

By IRA BERKOW

JUST before he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1970, candidate Jack Kemp of Buffalo, N.Y., was asked what experiences in his 13-year career as a pro football quarterback qualified him to be a congressman.

"Pro football gave me a good sense of perspective to enter politics," he said. "I'd already been booed, cheered, cut, sold, traded and hung in effigy."

As Bob Dole's running mate, the former congressman and former all-American Football League signal caller for the Buffalo Bills will be running as fervently toward November as he ever did toward a goal line. Critics, though, will certainly argue that he will be running from some issues with the cleverness he used to dodge snaggle-toothed linemen.

But can Mr. Kemp's pro football career be any guide to his fitness as Vice President?

Lyndon B. Johnson once voiced doubts about Gerald R. Ford, who was a center for the University of Michigan and a member of the 1935 College All-Star team. "The trouble with Ford," President Johnson said, "is that he played one too many games without a helmet."

Richard M. Nixon, who was a third-string tackle at

Whittier College, was regularly trampled on in practice, according to his former coach, Chief Newman. But the young Nixon kept getting up and sticking his nose in for more. "Dick liked the battle, though," the coach said, "and the smell of sweat."

Ronald Reagan was a lineman for Eureka College in Illinois. He said he was little more than hamburger fodder for the big boys. "Football," he said, "went deeper" than other sports. "That's why you can look at that bench when the TV camera comes over and see the fellows sitting there crying. I've sat there crying."

All three of those Presidents — and two were first Vice Presidents — were linemen. A quarterback, however, is a different animal: He gives orders. He doesn't take them — unless his coach sends in a new guard on every play to dictate the course of action.

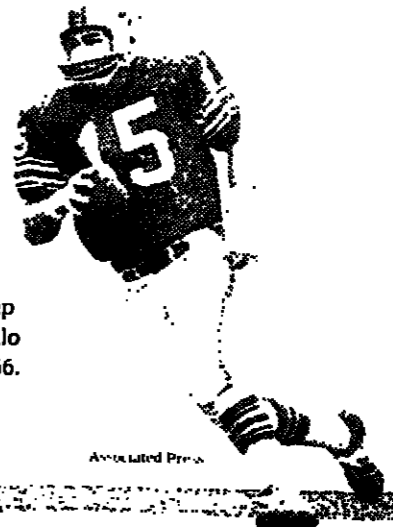
When Mr. Kemp, who is 61 and a former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was asked the other day if he would be ready to run for the Vice Presidency, he said, "Quarterbacks are always ready."

This might be a problem. After all, quarterbacks are trained to throw bombs. They're nervous, and always sniffing for blitzes. And they are always getting their bells rung. How can a Vice President who may still hear faint tinnitinations even get any sleep?

"He's not a supporting actor," said William Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard, after Mr. Kemp tried helping Steve Forbes's campaign. "He's not a backstage player. He's a quarterback."

Can Mr. Kemp be trusted? Remember, one of his favorite plays was the quarterback sneak. Other Kemp football achievements, include leading the Bills to a couple of A.F.L. championships, once winning the Most Valuable Player award. As a quarterback, he was able to take punishment and was considered creative and brainy, in a job where brains are not altogether necessary. Some quarterbacks, after all, run onto the field with the plays written on their pants and hands.

But a smart guy knows how to make threats. When Mr. Kemp won reelection to Congress, he explained his strategy. "I told people that if they didn't reelect me," he said, "I'd come back as a quarterback of the Bills."



Jack Kemp as a Buffalo Bill in 1966.

SEASONS	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS
10	3,073	1,436	46.7	21,218
TDS	INT	YDS RUSH	SACKS	
114	183	1,156	59	

The Republicans Find It Hard Running Up the Middle

Continued From Page 1

government's books (and an abiding skepticism of Ronald Reagan's economic policies). The choice of Mr. Kemp, a supply-side tax-cutter from way back, gives him a bit more credibility in his new role.

Washington is anathema to voters these days, so Mr. Dole sought early on to symbolically shed decades of personal history by resigning from the Senate to campaign as a plain Joe from Kansas.

Mr. Dole has done what he could to see to it that this year's Republican convention avoids the pitfalls of the 1992 gathering in Houston. Before settling on Mr. Kemp, he sought in vain to persuade General Colin Powell, perhaps the best man to guarantee the ticket an image of good sense and balance, to become his running mate.

He also sought language in the platform that would explicitly express the party's tolerance of those in its ranks who back abortion rights (for "tolerance" read "inclusion" or "non-extremism"). But the opponents of abortion, especially Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, had done their work well, electing delegates in state after state who were determined not to yield on what they deem to be a profound moral issue.

The best the former Senator could manage on that score was a tolerant appendix, which will no doubt be even less read or heeded than the platform it accompanies. It was apparently enough to avoid a floor fight led by the Rockefeller of 1996, like Governors William Weld of Massachusetts and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey. But the platform as a whole constitutes a



On Friday, the Doles surveyed the crowd at Dwight D. Eisenhower's boyhood home in Abilene, Kan.

statement of party principles closer in its music, if not always in its words, to the unbridled nationalism and populism of Patrick J. Buchanan than to Mr. Dole's careful formulations.

"We could not be more pleased," said Angela (Bay) Buchanan, Mr. Buchanan's sister, with a document that will include many of the themes from the Buchanan campaign: opposition to American troops serving under foreign commanders in United Nations peacekeeping forces, opposition to same-sex marriages, opposition to public assistance for children born to illegal aliens while in the United States.

It is uncertain how the platform and the convention speeches about it will play with the voters; a prominent moderate Republican in Pennsylvania said last week that voters in suburban Philadelphia, one of the pivotal areas where the hot Houston rhetoric hurt Mr. Bush in 1992, would be listening to every word.

If they are offended once more, if they sense that the Republican Party has been radicalized like the Democratic Party of the 1970's, Mr. Clinton will be waiting to greet them with open arms. His own convention later this month will be scripted to send nothing but signals of harmony and moderation, in sharp contrast to the scenes of combat, both physical and metaphysical, that emanated from Chicago in 1968.

Ross Perot will be waiting, too, as the presumptive nominee of his Reform Party at its curiously bifurcated convention, beginning in Long Beach, Calif., before the Republican gathering down the coast and ending after it in Valley Forge, Pa. Third parties in America have

traditionally been havens for those who found the major parties too moderate, not too extreme, but Mr. Perot likes to think he is in sync with the Jaundiced Majority that considers all mainstream politics a joke, particularly a mainstream politics whose leading lights so readily jettison principles to woo voters. But in the end the joke may be on Mr. Perot, too, since he has his own problems with political constancy.

The Hard Line's Victories

The most pressing problem for Mr. Dole, as he himself has no doubt concluded, is the hard-line conservatives within his party, who have also triumphed in a number of important primaries in recent months. In Kansas, Representative Sam Brownback, one of Newt Gingrich's foot soldiers, defeated the establishment Senator appointed in Mr. Dole's place, Sheila Frahm, and other outspoken foes of abortion won in such diverse states as Georgia, Michigan and Illinois. They are all expected to face trouble in November, local politicians say, in appealing to moderates of both parties.

So may Mr. Dole. For two decades, from 1968, when Richard Nixon discovered how to appeal to what he called the Silent Majority, through 1988, it was the Republicans who seemed like the natural party of government, in tune with the national Zeitgeist, and the Democrats who seemed the party of cranks and hangers-on. Those roles may now be reversing, with profound political consequences.

هذا من الاصل

The World

Officially Absolved, Colombian Still Gets No Respect

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

PRESIDENT ERNESTO SAMPER entered the third year of his presidency last week, trailed by the ghost of charges that drug money financed his election. The absolution from the Colombian Congress that he fought so hard for last June is doing little to clear his name, while a new indictment against drug traffickers in Miami is kindling talk of his possible extradition. Lacking support in familiar quarters, Mr. Samper is launching a desperate, at times embarrassing, drive for respectability abroad and post-presidential survival at home.

Far from clearing Mr. Samper's name, the official exoneration has deepened the crisis confronting him: it virtually ends any legal means of removing him. The Congress, itself compromised by suspected links between drug traffickers and many of its members, has left Colombians with the strange conclusion that the scandal wracking their country is baseless.

The exoneration has also given a fresh breath of surrealism to Mr. Samper's tenuous efforts to appear presidential, despite popularity ratings that have dropped by half since he took office. Unwelcome in the United States, where the State Department has stripped him of his visa, Mr. Samper has gone courting support elsewhere, often at extravagant prices.

Looking for Respect

Earlier this month, he was embraced by President Jacques Chirac of France, who proposed an international consortium to buy coca harvests and finance crop substitution programs in Colombia. Never mind that the proposal contradicted the vow that Horacio Serpa, the Interior Minister who was running the country in the President's absence, was making at the same time. Mr. Serpa told protesting farmers that the Government was adamant in its determination to burn and fumigate their coca crops.

The cost of French support? Confusion, embarrassment and perhaps millions of dollars. Accompanying Mr. Samper in Paris, the new Foreign Minister, Maria Emma Mejia, announced that Colombia had decided to purchase \$200 million worth of French helicopters, though no final decision had been reached on bids solicited from 12 countries. Back home, the Defense Ministry complained that the French helicopters were far more expensive than either the American or Russian models, and that the decision was not up to the Foreign Minister.

In Spain, Mr. Samper's next stop, Prime Minister José Maria Aznar was too busy to see him. Colombia's own Vice President, Humberto de la Calle, who also serves as ambassador to Madrid, carefully avoided being photographed greeting Mr. Samper at the airport.

Since his exoneration, Mr. Samper has issued a flurry of promises for reforms, including get-tough policies against drug traffickers and increased authority for the military, despite objections from human rights groups. But critics complain that the reforms are like reflections in funhouse mirrors, lacking force and coherence, and the result of a failure to acknowledge that drug kingpins influence much of what happens in Colombia. The problem with the reforms, said Otty Patiño, head of the civic group, Inspector's Office for the Truth, is "they don't deal with our biggest problem, which is corruption."

Some of the reforms seem like frantic attempts to salvage Colombia's image as a country serious about cracking down on drug



President Ernesto Samper of Colombia speaking at a graduation ceremony at a military academy in Bogotá in May. Associated Press

cartels. Others, proposed and then dropped, would have weakened the means to check rampant corruption. In Bogotá, graffiti on a downtown wall suggested that Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, a Cali drug lord implicated in the campaign financing scandal, should be President: "Do away with the middleman," it said.

Such brazen inferences, along with the persistent allegations of the President's corruption, have caused him to become more doggedly insistent that if drug money entered his campaign, he was unaware of it. In a recent letter to The New York Times, he asserted that the convictions of his campaign treasurer, Santiago Medina, and the Liberal former Senator Maria Izquierdo, "far from casting clouds on my presidency, clarify this situation in a very positive manner." He failed to mention that Mr. Medina and Mrs. Izquierdo were both convicted, in part, for "illicit enrichment on behalf of a third party," and that, in the case of Mr. Medina, the conviction named Mr. Samper's presidential campaign specifically as that "third party."

The President was also described, though not named, in Operation Cornerstone, a broad indictment handed up in Miami,

A Latin leader tries to curry favor in Europe while placating his military at home.

charging Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez and some 72 associates with racketeering, drug trafficking and bribery of Colombian politicians. That indictment may well have raised Mr. Samper's fears of extradition to the United States, and hastened his measures to protect himself after he leaves office in 1998.

Even reforms that would stiffen penalties for drug trafficking and bribery lack the moral credibility the Samper administration is so eagerly seeking: they come too late to affect the Rodríguez brothers, his suspected backers, whose cases are in their final stages in Colombia. Others seem more like counter-reforms, designed to strengthen his hand. One would put the chief prosecutor, who brought charges against Mr. Samper early this year, under his control. Politically he is managing to stave off the rumored threat of a coup with increased funds and other concessions to the military, which has gained leverage in proportion to the crisis.

Self-Preservation

And last month, in a speech opening Congress, Mr. Samper raised the prospect of constitutional amendments that would have increased chances that Mr. Serpa, his most trusted adviser, could succeed him. The changes would have scheduled all elections on a single date, eliminating the second round of presidential voting and thus favoring the candidates hand-picked by the two major parties. Amid a chorus of rebukes, the President backed down, but his Liberal Party may still get them through Congress.

Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza, Colombia's former ambassador to Italy and one of the authors of a best-selling sendup of the left, "Manual of the Perfect Latin American Idiot," said the maneuvers for political reform took Colombians by surprise. "Most people were thinking either that Samper would finish out his term in 1998 or that he would leave," Mr. Apuleyo said. "The third option didn't occur to anybody: that the same people would try to hang on to power after 1998."

The European Vacation

Beach Blanket Burghers and Other Oddities

By JOHN TAGLIABUE

IT'S August in Europe, and the serious business of vacations has begun.

Consider Germany. This summer, as it does every year, the Government has imposed a plan by which the country's 16 states begin their six-week-or-so school vacations at different times. This year schools in a patch of northern states stretching from Hamburg to Berlin closed June 20, reopening at the end of July. On June 27 a cluster of states in what was formerly East Germany, around Saxony and Thuringia, started their school vacations, and on July 4 schools in the big state of North Rhine-Westphalia, whose 17 million people make it roughly comparable to the state of New York, set their hordes free. By last week, when children in Hamburg and Berlin were returning to class, little Bavarians in the Alpine south were bidding their teachers auf Wiedersehen.

Imagine Washington ordering New England states to stagger their school vacations so that Vermont schoolchildren quit in mid-June, while Rhode Island children tough it out till early August. Why do the Germans do it?

The Big Exodus

It's simple. In August, Europe shuts down. Not only do governments go into recess, as they do in Washington and American state capitals. Most Europeans get four to six weeks paid vacation and, unlike Americans, who might take a week or two here and there during the year, they take it all at once. In Germany, assembly lines at the big automobile plants fall mostly idle; the hallways of corporate headquarters go dark. In Italy hospitals slow down, and pregnant women try not to go into labor. Roman movie theaters and most restaurants close.

A huge exodus of Italians and French, Spaniards and Dutch begins, from cities and towns to the beaches and



Fresh air and company: Many Germans summer in the resort city of Diano Marino on the Italian Adriatic.

mountains.

Of course, not everyone goes very far. Tens of thousands of Italian and French families travel comparatively short distances from one part of the country to another. The Milanese brave the autostrada and bake for three or four weeks on the Italian Riviera. Romans drive the few miles to balmy Ostia and Fregene on the Mediter-

anean shore. Parisians set off for the windswept coasts of Normandy and Brittany.

The Italians and French so love their own land in August that only tiny numbers — less than 10 percent of their populations — travel outside their countries.

The Germans are different. Given the chilliness of Germany's northern beaches, about 90 percent of Ger-

mans spend their summer holidays outside the country. So many of them flood Italy's Adriatic seacoast to roast under the sun each summer that those beaches have come to be known as the Teutonic Grill.

Germany's reunification in 1990 combined about 81 million people, or roughly one-third the American population, in an area slightly smaller than Montana. (West Germany, with 61 million people, was the size of Oregon.) Add to that Germany's 14 million Dutch neighbors, whose vacation habits resemble the Germans', and the problematic logistics of vacationing en masse emerge.

Staggered school vacations are not the only means to a better-organized summer. To assure bookings at favored resorts for the next season, many Germans and Dutch reserve at the end of this year's vacation for next year.

Traditions Eroding

But European vacation traditions may be about to change, with even an economic powerhouse like Germany now preaching austerity as it copes with record unemployment and a wilting currency.

"The Germans, unlike, for example, the Italians, have already begun spreading their vacations out over the year," said Ralf Corsten, chairman of T.U.I., the German travel agency, whose 25 percent stake in the \$135 billion German vacation market makes it the world's largest.

Old habits are dying in France and Italy, too, if more slowly. In 1988, 56 percent of Italians responded in a survey that they preferred those long, lazy August vacations; this year the number was 38 percent.

Not everyone is celebrating the trend. Massimo Masini, the Mayor of Riccione, a tinsel beach town on the Teutonic Grill, who moonlights summers as a disk jockey, lamented recently the absence of the Germans and the weakness of the mark, which has lost 30 percent of its value this year.

"Thank God the Russians are arriving," Mr. Masini said. "Their suits are lined with American dollars."

Ideas & Trends

For Your F.B.I. File, Take a Number (15,001)

By DAVID WALLIS

NEXT time the Clinton Administration trumpets declining unemployment figures, they may owe some thanks to Craig Livingstone.

Mr. Livingstone, the former White House director of personnel security, resigned under pressure in June after improperly acquiring confidential Federal Bureau of Investigation files on nearly 900 people, including many prominent Republicans. While Mr. Livingstone's departure reduced the nation's labor force by one, his legacy may be the creation of 350 jobs at the F.B.I.

Since news broke of the file fiasco, the F.B.I. has been swamped with requests from citizens asking to review their own files under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts, the laws establishing the statutory rights to obtain Government documents. In response the Senate committee responsible for funding the bureau voted unanimously this month to beef up the F.B.I. department that processes those requests.

There are 9.6 million F.B.I. files on individuals, alive and dead, plus organizations and criminal investigations. If the empty 9-by-11½-inch white folders were empty and stacked one on top of another, the paper tower would rise about 20 miles into the sky. But the files are not empty. They are full of "raw" information — uncorroborated rumors often spread by anonymous sources, including paid informants, about marital infidelities, sexual orientation, drug use, political leanings and mental stability. Imag-

David Wallis is a writer in New York.

ine a federally financed version of the National Enquirer with J. Edgar Hoover as its editor-in-chief.

Investigative files existed before Hoover joined the Bureau in 1917, but they multiplied exponentially during his reign as director from 1924 until his death in 1972. He maintained dossiers on Government officials, artists, writers, activists and celebrities ranging from Edward R. Murrow to Liberace. And he would often share morsels of gossip with the White House to titillate, and sometimes threaten, the presidents he served. During the Hoover years, publicly criticizing the F.B.I. or signing a petition protesting the Vietnam War was enough to spur an F.B.I. surveillance. No more.

Mastercard Knows More

"Two types of files now exist," explained James M. Fox, former chief of the F.B.I.'s New York office. "The first type is for people who have committed crimes or been the subject of a criminal investigation. The second is for someone nominated for a high position that requires a background check."

"You just can't collect stuff like you used to," Mr. Fox said. "In some cases the F.B.I. can collect far less information than your local credit bureau."

Most Americans don't have a file, Mr. Fox said. But those who do can expect to wait between two and four years to get the scuttlebutt. "Don't expect to get a quick answer to your request, when you've got 15,000 people in line ahead of you," said F.B.I. spokesman Bill Carter.

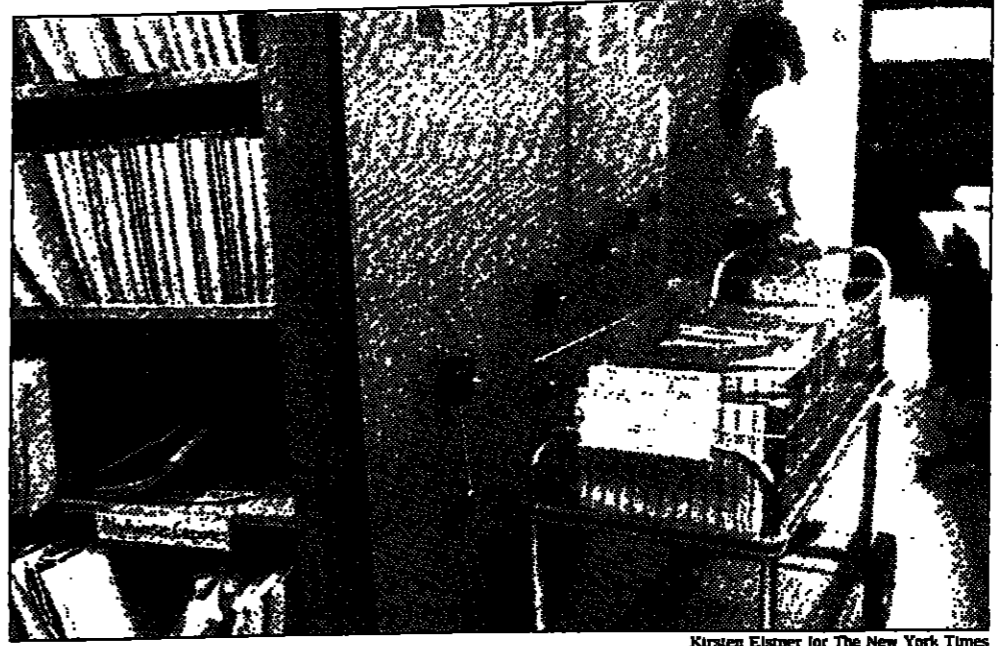
Why the wait? Several exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act enable agencies

to censor information. In recent testimony before the House, J. Kevin O'Brien, chief of the F.B.I.'s Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Section, blamed much of the backlog on the considerable time and resources the F.B.I. spends to decide what information can be released "without harming national security, revealing confidential sources, invading personal privacy, interfering with ongoing investigations, disclosing specialized investigative techniques or revealing other sensitive information."

Critics contend that the F.B.I.'s laborious "line by line" editing erodes the Freedom of Information Act's effectiveness. "It's basically been a downhill run for the act since it was signed into law," lamented Ramsey Clark, who helped write the law when he was Attorney General under Lyndon B. Johnson. "The exemptions carved into the act are overwhelmingly unwarranted."

Carl Stern, chief spokesman for the Justice Department, faults overzealous requesters. "Better than 95 percent of these requests the Justice Department gets are these 'give me all you got' requests." He recalls one that included a list of questions that ran 11 typed pages, single spaced. "It would take a number of F.B.I. employees a number of years just to process that one request," he said.

Jack Greenberg, the former director of the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Fund, is intimately familiar with the F.B.I.'s Orwellian interpretation of the laws. In 1991 he received a predominantly censored file. He appealed to the bureau to reverse its decision, only to be informed that the Privacy Act also protected the confidential sources that supplied the skinny on Mr. Greenberg. So, Mr. Greenberg sued the F.B.I. in 1993. The District Court for



In the F.B.I. reading room, it's easier to get Al Capone's files than your own.

the District of Columbia ruled in Mr. Greenberg's favor, awarding him plenty of legal fees as well as \$18,000 in legal fees.

The full file included an assessment of Mr. Greenberg as "not subversive," transcripts of wiretapped telephone conversations between him and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a report saying he was the target of two assassination plots. "I knew about one assassination attempt, but the F.B.I. never told me of the other," said Mr. Greenberg. He still cannot fathom the bureau's stubbornness in releasing it.

High Stakes

The Freedom of Information Act has few friends at the F.B.I. Mr. Fox recalls "going through pages and pages and pages of stuff deciding what could be excluded and what had to be released." He added, "I did not join the F.B.I. to do this. I joined the F.B.I. to catch bad guys."

The agency is trying to streamline its operations. Previously, it processed requests on a first-come-first-serve basis, but now, requests of under 100 pages are put in a separate queue. And the White House and

Congress are pitching in too. To reduce file-glut, the White House requested an additional \$3.3 million to hire 129 more analysts, a figure that's likely to be approved by the full Senate in September. The House offered more, nearly \$14 million, to hire 350 new F.B.I. employees. But its generosity comes with a condition: the people whose files were acquired by the White House get to leapfrog to the front of the line.

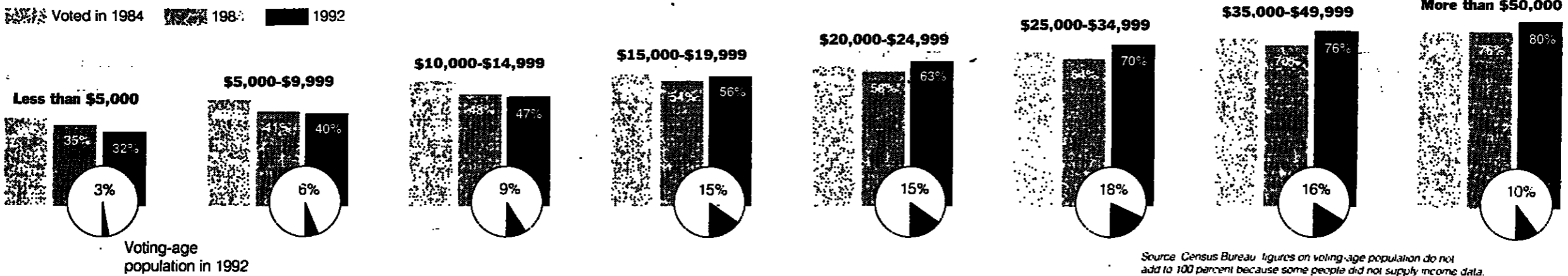
Harry Hammit, publisher of Access Reports, a newsletter that tracks the implementation of the law, suggests that Livingstone's prey should not hold their breath. "To change the F.B.I. from a very closed agency to a very open one will take a considerable amount of time," he said. "They rejected releasing Jimmy Hoffa's file because they said it's a case still under investigation. I don't think the F.B.I. will ever change its spots."

For further information about obtaining an F.B.I. file, contact the F.B.I.'s Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Section at (202) 324-3000. Or call the Freedom of Information Act Clearing House, a non-profit organization, at (202) 588-1000.

Class Warfare? The Rich Win by Default.

Stand Up and Be Counted

Percentage of adults who said they voted in each Presidential election, broken down by annual family income. Based on interviews with more than 50,000 respondents in each year. Income is not adjusted for inflation.



Source: Census Bureau figures on voting-age population do not add to 100 percent because some people did not supply income data.

The New York Times

Continued From Page 1

the Republican party platform pledges to help the poor with tax cuts and reduced regulations intended to spur economic growth.

But it's clear that the platform is aimed at middle

and upper-middle class voters — like those with \$2,000 in extra cash to put in an Individual Retirement Account for a spouse without a paying job. With 2 percent of the delegates surveyed by The New York Times/CBS News Poll reporting family incomes of \$25,000 or less, the average somewhere around \$75,000 and 11 percent over

\$200,000, there is little in the economic section of the platform to bother the delegates themselves.

Even so, the Republicans say how they will help "the poor." The Democratic platform that was recommended Monday in Pittsburgh avoids the word desperately. It appears in a list of Republican sins, what it

calls "their wrong-headed and mean-spirited efforts to punish the poor." The Democrats say good things about the Earned Income Tax Credit and raising the minimum wage, but they never whisper the word "poor" to identify the beneficiaries of those programs — who at least have jobs.

That hesitancy, which was seen last year when some Democratic Senators were briefly reluctant to support such a bedrock party issue as raising the minimum wage, may contribute to the declining turnout — which, in a vicious circle, may then contribute to more avoidance of those issues.

High Stakes

The Rev. Jesse Jackson attributed the recent decline to a lack of "candidates who inspire hope." But he said that in about 50 House districts this fall, he planned to emphasize the importance of voting, and the hope of wresting Congress from the Republicans: "The stakes are very high, and much higher than the Presidential campaign."

Black leaders are not the only ones to worry about declining interest among poor voters. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York was eloquent last September, when the first version of the welfare bill was passed, asking the Senate: "Why do we not see the endless parade of petitioners, the lobbyists, the pretend citizen groups, the real citizen groups? None are here."

Last week, he said a major reason for the decline was an intellectual disdain many Democratic reformers of the 1970's held for "the political views of working class, low-income voters, which were at odds with the patrician left." That disdain, he said, led them to curb the role of low-income voters in party politics.

The welfare bill actually may not be a particularly salient example of the effect of lower voting rates among blacks. Douglas J. Besharov, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute here, said that over 30 years, "attitudes toward welfare have almost inexorably led to a bill like this."

"If there had been a Democratic majority in the Congress, it would have been somewhat softer," he said. "But there still would have been time limits and mandatory work. Maybe the poor don't vote. Maybe that made it worse. But you have this underlying tide."

Another cautionary voice is that of Ruy A. Teixeira of the Economic Policy Institute. He said turnout differences had less to do with the political agenda than with hostility toward government among the rest of the electorate. "The poor," he said, "have always been at the mercy of the views and opinions of the middle-class voter."

Representative John Conyers of Michigan, the longest-serving black in Congress, said he was dismayed at a turnout of only 17 percent in Detroit in last week's primary, about two-thirds of the normal level.

"I'll tell you what surprised me," he said. "I have never heard any more complaints about the government's insensitivity to what people need in this country than there have been under the Gingrich leadership. Yet at the same time, instead of that translating into a remarkable turnout, an angry protest at the polls, it turns into a whimper."

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Mr. Dole's Newest Beginning

Bob Dole flies to California today to accept the Republican Party's Presidential nomination.

Mr. Dole will be arriving in San Diego with Jack Kemp, his surprise choice as a running mate.

Mr. Dole has spent months campaigning as the presumptive G.O.P. nominee, to little reward.

Now, he has an opportunity to put all that behind him. Despite Mr. Dole's 35 years in Congress...

This week Mr. Dole will have a chance to connect with all the voters who have been determinedly ignoring political news...

also hoping that the convention will allow the nation to see that the Republican candidate is married to a strong, independent career woman...

That will be news to many voters. Still, it may not be enough to bridge the gender gap.

Given the makeup of his convention, Mr. Dole will have a hard time reassuring voters, particularly women...

The biggest challenge facing Mr. Dole this week is to answer that pesky question about why he wants to be President.

The convention will mark the third time Mr. Dole has introduced himself to the public during this election.

Gains and Frustrations in Mexico

President Ernesto Zedillo is making impressive progress in his effort to clean up Mexico's fraud-prone electoral system.

Prodded by Mr. Zedillo, Mexico's Congress recently approved a package of constitutional amendments endorsed by all the country's major parties...

The new rules will apply at the state as well as the federal level and will be in effect in time for next year's midterm elections...

But if Mr. Zedillo is to sustain public confidence in his Government until that date, he must credibly address the scandals he has inherited...

The man Mr. Salinas originally chose to run as his successor, Luis Donaldo Colosio, was murdered

on the campaign trail in 1994. The Salinas administration attributed the killing to a lone deranged gunman with no political motive...

The second test of Mr. Zedillo's fortitude involves the financial dealings of Raúl Salinas, the former President's brother...

One crucial question is whether Raúl Salinas corruptly influenced any of the multi-billion dollar privatization deals that took place during his brother's administration...

It is clear that Mr. Zedillo wants to create a more accountable political system. To do so, he will have to overcome powerful forces within his own party...

The Warning in Kerri Strug's Heroics

The memory that lingers from the Atlanta Olympics is the sight of tiny Kerri Strug vaulting on her badly sprained ankle to clinch a gold medal for the American women's gymnastics team.

The very week that Ms. Strug was performing her heroics, The New England Journal of Medicine published a sobering article documenting just how great the damage to young gymnasts can be.

Most elite gymnasts suffer some form of injury during childhood or adolescence, ranging from minor sprains to repeated fractures, premature osteoporosis and even spinal deformities.

by inordinate, single-minded devotion to this isolating sport.

Even so, it is not hard to see why so many young girls subject themselves to it. Many would-be champions sat starry-eyed in front of their television sets as Ms. Strug confided that her highest ambition was to serve as a role model for others.

That is not all to the bad. Competitive gymnastics can have some very positive influences on the youngsters, promoting self-confidence and teaching them the value of hard work, discipline and the meaning of excellence as they strive to compete at the very highest levels of human endeavor.

All those who push these youngsters toward the spotlight must remember that a brief moment of Olympic glory — much less a fizzled dream of reaching the Olympics — is not worth a lifetime of pain or psychological damage.

When Welfare Cases Land on State Playing Fields

To the Editor:

The inaccurate assumptions and misguided conclusions that form the basis of the applause from Mayor Steve Goldsmith of Indianapolis for the dismantling of the Federal welfare system (Op-Ed, Aug. 4) provide a frightening glimpse of the future...

In arguing that Indiana's current system undermines family cohesiveness, Mr. Goldsmith wrongly claims that Indiana residents cannot receive A.F.D.C. unless they are unmarried and/or in a different home

from their extended family. In fact, both married parents and young parents living with their own families can receive benefits to help support their children.

In arguing that private charities can now replace a so-called government monopoly on the business of helping people, Mr. Goldsmith ignores the fact that the charities now doing the most for people in his community, including Catholic Charities U.S.A. and the Salvation Army, have begged Congress and the President

not to abandon the 60-year Federal safety net and have insisted that they and other private charities will be unable to mend the holes in that safety net once it is shredded.

Mr. Goldsmith's conclusion that greater "flexibility" and local autonomy will allow cities and other local government bodies to be more effective at reducing poverty is belied by the fact that his main prescription for reducing the welfare rolls do not address the ills of his own community's low-income population.

It appears that while recent legislation may have finally concluded the treatment of low-income families as political footballs at the national level, those families have been pushed to the electoral playing fields of the 50 states.

Indianapolis, Aug. 4, 1996
The writer is a professor of law at Indiana University.

America Begins to Face Its Atomic Past

To the Editor:

As Philip Taubman makes clear in "America's Atomic History" (Editorial Notebook, Aug. 4), America after 51 years still refuses to face squarely the atomic bombings of Japan.

Last year at the 50th anniversary an unprecedented public discussion of virtually all aspects of Hiroshima took place.

An equally hopeful sign was a new opinion poll, which suggested that fully half of all Americans now believe that President Truman should have sought alternatives to dropping the bomb.

No country ever fully confronts its past. This is certainly true in regard to the Japanese and their atrocities during World War II.

There has been a similar shift, limited but significant, in American consciousness toward Hiroshima and its meanings.

Nyack, N.Y., Aug. 4, 1996

In Mostar Election, No Serb Assurances

To the Editor:

It is hopeful that Mostar's Croats have agreed to honor election results that give the Muslims a slight majority in this divided Bosnian city.

Although the European Union commission approved voting booths for Croat and Muslim refugees in Europe and Bosnia, no such facilities were made available to Serbian refugees from Mostar.

You compound the confusion in noting that "the two sides now have separate schools with separate curriculums..."

This would be akin to dividing the Philadelphia school district curriculum into North Philadelphia and South Philadelphia.

The writer is an assistant professor of political science, Duquesne University.



The writers are the authors of 'Hiroshima in America.'

Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell

There has been a similar shift, limited but significant, in American consciousness toward Hiroshima and its meanings.

Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell

Nyack, N.Y., Aug. 4, 1996

Gay Marriage May Find Religious Sanction

To the Editor:

Re "Jack and Bob, Going to the Chapel" (Op-Ed, Aug. 7):

In seeking formal recognition of their unions, gay men and lesbians are neither rejecting, nor ignoring traditional spiritual ideals.

The idea of more and more mainstream churches and synagogues celebrating wedding rituals for same-sex couples may be dis-

G.O.P. Convention Spirit

To the Editor:

The best evidence of America's decline is a quote by Paul J. Manafort, Bob Dole's convention manager (front page, Aug. 8): "If there are any political issues, which there won't be in this convention..."

Thus, the candidates themselves have eschewed the value upon which our nation was founded: the free exchange of political speech to achieve the ends of self-government.

Why look to the evils of the news media, the welfare system or the lack of family values for the cause of our social malaise...

New York, Aug. 9, 1996

Let English-Only Bill Spell Bilingual Education's Demise

To the Editor:

Re Richard Grayson's Aug. 6 letter "Bilingual Americans Serve Global Markets," attacking the House bill that would make English the official language of the United States:

When I was 12, my parents decided to start anew in the United States. From the proceeds of the sale of almost everything we owned in our native country, my father paid the down payment and a month's rent for a one-bedroom apartment in a crime-infested New York City neighborhood.

Ten years later, what am I doing? Am I in jail? Selling drugs? Working for McDonald's? The answer is none of the above.

Fortunately for me, after two futile years in the junior high school bilingual program, I was erroneously

placed in a regular class in high school where, like many immigrants before me, I felt compelled to learn English in order to be part of the group.

In his letter, Mr. Grayson states that "there is no danger of Americans being segregated into linguistic ghettos."

Linguistic

ghettos are not a possibility; they are a reality. They perpetuate the concentric, non-English-speaking worlds many immigrants live in.

Mr. Grayson further argues that second-generation Americans will reach adulthood unable to communicate effectively in any language other than English...

I hope the House bill is a prelude to the reform, if not the end, of bilingual education.

Bronx, Aug. 7, 1996

Weight Lifters Only

To the Editor:

Re Dave Anderson's Aug. 6 column "The Olympics Won't Return to U.S. Soon", in which he suggests "Throw out synchronized swimming and rhythmic gymnastics".

I agree. Any event that requires a combination of form, stamina, grit and grace such that women are better at it than men should be eliminated from the Games.

Liverpool, N.Y., Aug. 6, 1996

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Handwritten note at the bottom of the page: 'بانا من الاصل'



Art by Ron Barrett/Photos by Naum Kazhdan

Let's Have Conventions With Cliffhangers

By Michael R. Beschloss

WASHINGTON For most of the American past, national political conventions were genuine pivot points. History was altered time and again because one candidate's army was craftier than another's in the back rooms or on the arena floor.

Had Abraham Lincoln failed to unhorse the far less visionary Republican front-runner, William H. Seward, on the third ballot, in Chicago in 1860, the Civil War might have ended differently.

At the 1932 Democratic Convention, had William Randolph Hearst not thrown his support on the fourth ballot to Franklin Roosevelt, the President who dealt with the Depression and Hitler would have been either Al Smith or John Nance Garner.

Compare these with the events about to unfold in San Diego and Chicago. In our contemporary process dominated by Presidential primaries, delegates still brawl over platform issues like abortion, just as they once did over slavery, Prohibition, civil rights and Vietnam. And a nomination contest can still be so close that when a convention opens no one can be absolutely certain whom the nominee will be (remember Gerald Ford vs. Ronald Reagan in 1976?).

But since 1952, when Adlai Stevenson belatedly bowed to a draft movement, no Presidential nomination has gone beyond the first ballot. The freeze-dried conventions of our time serve mainly to ratify the nomination of a candidate selected five months earlier by a few hundred thousand primary voters, many of whom knew little about the candidate that did not come from TV commercials. Looking back, one finds three events mainly responsible for the fact that modern conventions are now more media events than political events.

• Woodrow Wilson's demand for a national primary. In 1913, the new President asked Congress for a nationwide vote to choose party nominees "without the intervention of nominating conventions." By then, 13 states were already offering some kind of primary. The surprising part of Wilson's appeal was that it violated his well-known championship of representative democracy — the idea that men and women in government or politics had something to contribute that the average voter did not.

• The 1968 Democratic National Convention. What most Americans noticed about Chicago at the time was the televised carnage around the Conrad Hilton Hotel when the police erupted against antiwar demonstrators and innocent bystanders. But we can now see that other events were of more lasting importance. The convention showed that although Robert Kennedy won every primary he entered, save Oregon, he still would

have been stymied, had he lived, in winning the nomination. The prize went easily to Hubert Humphrey, who had stayed out of the primaries.

Even the antiwar plank presented by Kennedy's supporters was rejected. Insurgent Democrats considered these results an insult to democracy, especially when they realized that about a third of the delegates had been chosen by local party organizations before the primaries had even begun.

After Humphrey's defeat by Rich-

No smoke-filled rooms but maybe an exploding cigar.

ard Nixon, George McGovern, a great admirer of Woodrow Wilson's, chaired a party commission to correct the defects of 1968. Today, Mr. McGovern insists that his reforms were not intended to hand voters in the primaries so much power to select

the nominee. But that is exactly what happened in both parties, as Republicans followed the Democrats' lead.

• Television. Conventions provide a superb example of the principle that a television camera changes the nature of what it covers. When Eisenhower was renominated in San Francisco in 1956, the first unchallenged nomination of the television age, Republicans created the model for modern conventions — short speeches, lavish use of visual aids, conflict hidden from cameras, ostentatious displays of unity.

By 1972, the Republican convention was as canned as a sitcom — as one reporter discovered when he fell upon a copy of the minute-by-minute script for Nixon's re-coronation, complete with stage directions for applause.

That same summer, Democratic disarray over Senator McGovern's nomination produced the anti-model for convention planners. Humphrey would not leave the race until midway through the convention, and pious delegates cast votes for Mao Zedong, Mickey Mouse and Walter Cronkite as Vice President. These antics so delayed Mr. McGovern's acceptance speech that it aired in

prime time only in Guam.

With the San Diego and Chicago conventions promising to win awards for artificiality, perhaps this is the moment to consider what we have lost. Almost no one wants to go back to cross horse-trading in smoke-filled rooms, but we should ponder how the modern nominating process has robbed us of the strengths of the old convention system.

Officeholders and party leaders who have long served alongside a potential nominee know things about a candidate that a casual voter in New Hampshire cannot. Especially in an era in which we worry about the impact of personal character on leadership, why minimize the influence of the very people who have seen that character revealed close-up year in and year out?

A truly hybrid system of state and local caucuses, primaries and conventions, yielding a large number of unpledged delegates, would do a better job of weeding out candidates and naming a nominee.

Ross Perot and Steve Forbes, while honorable figures, show us the dangers of a front-loaded primary system in the television age. In the

current system, delegates' hands are tied. Under an open convention process, they could register their anger by voting on the floor for someone else. There is nothing undemocratic about that. The three major networks might even want to cover it.

Michael R. Beschloss is a historian and author, most recently, of "The Crisis Years: Kennedy and Khrushchev, 1960-1963."

Liberties

MAUREN DOWD

Whatever And Wow!

Everyone knows that Bob Dole is going to lunge for Jack Kemp's throat. The only question is whether it will take weeks, days or hours.

"These guys have been fire and ice forever," says Ed Rollins, Mr. Kemp's adviser in the '88 Presidential race. "They've fought like cats and dogs in the past," agrees Bill Bennett, Mr. Kemp's empowerment. "But Madison and Jefferson disagreed, too."

"I think of Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker, father and son," chimes in Jude Wanniski, Mr. Kemp's supply sidekick.

Jack French Kemp is a sweet guy. But you couldn't imagine more ex-cruciating company for poor Bob Dole. He will be a constant irritant, nipping at Mr. Dole's heels, getting on his last nerve, prattling on about the gold standard, enterprise zones, flat taxes, von Hayek and Malthusian theory.

You can just picture the two men

A jersey with No. 2.

trapped in a Winnebago touring the heartland, trying to imitate the socko Bill-and-Al road show. Mr. Dole glaring at Mr. Kemp's big old helmet hair, as the Vice-Presidential candidate burbles on in his high-pitched voice for the third consecutive hour.

"And another little known fact about Bretton Woods that I'm not sure you quite grasp yet, Bob..."

The peppy, Jack-in-the-box qualities that are supposed to offset Mr. Dole's dry, sparse style — the Kempan chattiness, ebullience, sentimentality, pie-in-the-sky visions and zest for self-promotion — are the very qualities that will drive Mr. Dole absolutely batty.

"It's only 12 weeks and they'll have two airplanes," Mr. Rollins says hopefully. But even this good friend of Mr. Kemp's describes him as "a total pain... impossible to discipline."

We are talking here about a 61-year-old man whose favorite words are "Wow!" "Neat!" and "Super!" He saw "Les Mis" three times and still gets misty about Jean Valjean's sad fate for stealing a loaf of bread. (Mr. Dole probably thought Jean Valjean should have gotten more time.) Taking his cue from the fact that he and his wife, Joanne, have "J" names, he gave all four of his children names that began with "J."

"Once we started with J's," he explained to me once, "the last two kids would have felt like oddballs if we'd named them Margaret and Pete."

As HUD Secretary, Mr. Kemp was dismissed as the "class clown" of the Bush Cabinet because of his annoying habit of smirking, rolling his eyes, squirming in his seat and coughing nervously when he was kept from weighing in on subjects he was not involved in, like foreign affairs and economics. Once, he and Secretary of State James Baker had to be separated outside the Oval Office after Mr. Baker blew up at Mr. Kemp's insistent advice about the Soviet Union.

When Gerald Ford called President Bush in July '92 to suggest that Dan Quayle be replaced, Mr. Bush told aides: "I could never take Kemp. Can you imagine how out-of-control he'd be?"

Mr. Dole always considered Mr. Kemp a pretty boy who devalued ideas, and Mr. Kemp always considered Mr. Dole a fuddy-duddy who resisted new ideas. During the '88 primary, Mr. Dole joked that the former phys-ed major and Buffalo Bills quarterback should aim for football commissioner.

Mr. Kemp's talent to annoy was on display in the Republican primaries, when he endorsed Steve Forbes too late to help Mr. Forbes but not too late to anger Mr. Dole.

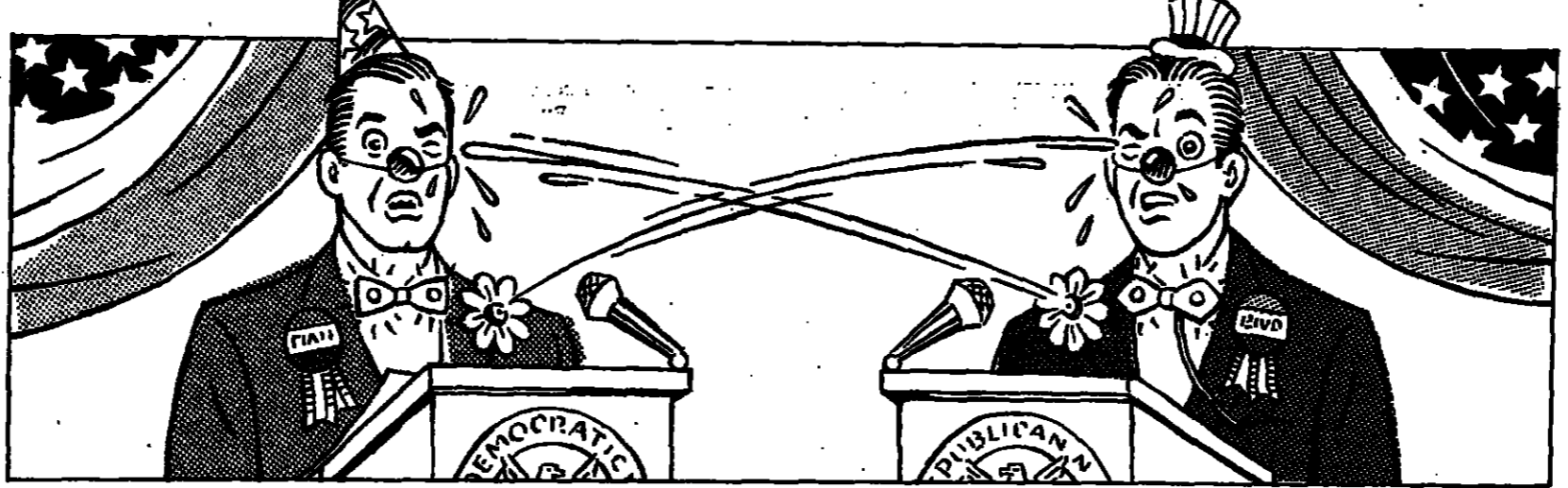
"It's only a question of when the first Bob Novak column appears that says, 'Sources within the Dole campaign say that Dole is not taking Jack Kemp's wise advice,'" says Bill Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*. "If they win, Dole will waste no time saying that enterprise zones are being launched in Buenos Aires, and it's really important that Vice President Kemp should go there indefinitely."

Mr. Wanniski says the key is a prenuptial agreement that puts Mr. Kemp at the center of the campaign. "If Dole says, 'I'll take out the garbage if you wash the dishes,' they'll get along fine. It's not a love match. It's a marriage of convenience."

Another pal says he cautioned Mr. Kemp in terms he could appreciate: "I told him 'Bob Dole is the captain of the team and the quarterback' and he said 'I understand,' and I told him 'Jack, this is the time for team play,' and he said 'I understand.'"

But you know he will be antsy on the back bench and will want to throw deep with the ball. I give it about three weeks before Bob Dole leaves him on the tarmac with his bags. □

The Parties' Big Parties



Ron Barrett

Why Republicans Will Have More Fun

By Doug Gamble

1. Three words: Craig Livingstone piñatas.
2. Don Imus named entertainment coordinator.
3. Ralph Reed turns water into wine.
4. G.O.P. guidelines for partying include "tolerance" clause.
5. Geritol spritzers.
6. Speeches last no longer than Bill Clinton's stand on an issue.
7. Free autographed copies of Bob Dole's boyhood handshake with President Lincoln.
8. "I brake for Ken Starr" bumper stickers.
9. Pat Buchanan wall-building bee at San Diego-Mexico border.
10. Al Gore not there.

Doug Gamble is a Republican speechwriter. Mark Katz, a Democratic speechwriter, is the author of "I Am Not a Corpse!" and Other Quotes Never Actually Said."

Why Democrats Will Have More Fun

By Mark Katz

1. Even if Democrats don't have more fun, the press will report that we did.
2. Let's face it: Bob Dole is not 72 anymore.
3. G.O.P. concession to Pat Buchanan: ban the Macarena, popular Latino line dance.
4. Reports of life on Mars re-energize Jerry Brown supporters.
5. Al Gore: human limbo stick.
6. Gender gap is disaster for G.O.P. Convention Dinner Dance.
7. Demonstrating party unity. Bill Clinton dives into mosh pit.
8. No passed-over Midwestern governors sulking in the hall.
9. Wednesday is "Subpoena Night" at local Bennigan's.
10. Members of 1968 Chicago police force are retired and living in San Diego.

Life on Mars? So What?

By Stephen Jay Gould

The textbooks of my youth designated our current epoch as the Age of Man. Current linguistic preferences favor an Age of Mammals. More generous people, with fewer parochial inclinations, often choose to honor a truly dominant multicellular group of more than a million described species (compared with a paltry 4,000 for mammals): the Age of Insects. But all these proposals represent little more than multicellular prejudice. We are now, as our planet has been for 3.5 billion years, in an Age of Bacteria.

These simplest of single-celled organisms dominate nearly all environments, exceed all other living things in range of habitats and biochemical tolerances, and may even outweigh all other living creatures. The number of *E. coli* cells in the gut of each person exceeds the number of human beings who have ever lived.

Bacterial life arose on earth almost as soon as environmental conditions permitted. The earth's crust solidified from a molten state about 3.9 billion years ago; unambiguous fossils of bacterial life appear in the oldest rocks that could contain evidence for them, dating from 3.5 to 3.8 billion years ago. We can only infer from this rapidity that it is not "difficult" for life of bacterial grade to evolve on planets with appropriate conditions. The origin of life may be a virtually automatic consequence of carbon chemistry and the physics of self-organizing systems — given favorable environments and requisite inorganic constituents.

We have known for many years that Mars, during its early history, maintained appropriate conditions, as best indicated by abundant geological evidence for running water. So if bacterial life arose so quickly on earth, and if Mars once possessed similarly favorable conditions, then we should also anticipate the evolution of some form of life at bacterial grade on Mars as well. With luck, evidence of such life might be preserved as fossils in Martian rocks.

This line of argument has been common among paleontologists for many years. Therefore, I am delighted, but not surprised, by the report of such fossil

evidence just presented to an astounded world. Noting this discrepancy in reaction between me and most of these, I must ask why some folks seem to think that a standard expectation of paleontologists now represents the greatest scientific revolution since Copernicus or Darwin.

I'm not trying to be grumpy or dyspeptic. Although I am not astonished, I couldn't be more pleased.

In any case, we are still 'alone.'

Science, after all, rests on factual documentation, not clever conjecture. A real Martian fossil would be a pearl beyond price, the lock on the case for life's universal generality (unless adjacent planets in our solar system can "seed" each other by the kind of meteoritic transfer that brought the Martian rock to earth). A hypothetical argument for the probable existence of Martian fossils, however, is scarcely worth the effort of an E-mail message.

Moreover, and obviously, we are not limited to the few Martian meteorites that luckily hit our planet. We can go to Mars for a truly systematic fossil hunt. The only real impediments lie in realms of politics and human will.

Two reasons underlie my quieter form of satisfaction:

First, I am not sure that the claim for Martian life is correct (and neither are the claimants, who show admirable caution in their forthcoming article). The meteorite is about 4.5 billion years old. The putative fossil evidence occurs on surfaces of cracks within the rock. The authors provide good arguments for claiming that the cracks formed and filled about 3.6 billion years ago, when Mars had running water. But cracks are more problematical than rock interiors for identifying the sources of materials.

The evidence for life is chemical and inferential, not "solid" like an unambiguous bone or shell. The authors found organic chemicals and mineral precipitates associated with globules that may have been formed, in part, by organic activity. The globules themselves are not fossils. On the surfaces of the globules, they found "ovoid and elongated forms" that look somewhat like the tiniest of bacteria.

Three alternative interpretations exist: the evidence originated on Mars by inorganic processes; the evidence is organic but was introduced by earthly organisms after the meteorite hit Antarctica; the evidence is organic, but due to laboratory contamination. The authors considered all these possibilities and present strong arguments, but not proof, for their view of formation by ancient Martian organisms.

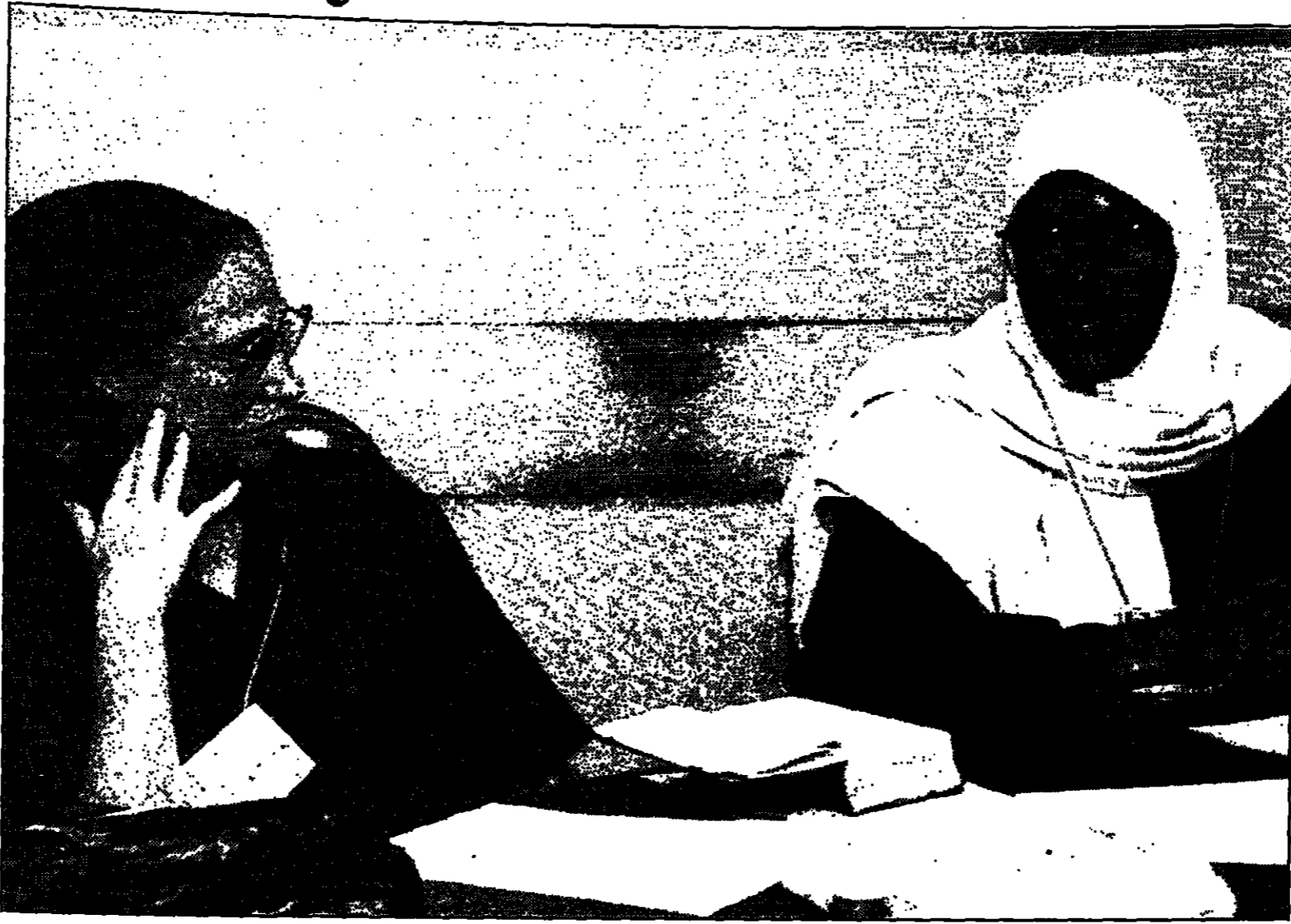
Second, a universe of conceptual difference separates bacteria from "little green men." We have good reason to think that life in its least complex form represents a fully predictable extension of ordinary chemistry and physics, given planets with appropriate conditions. Complex, self-conscious life arises by the starkly different route of unrepeatable and utterly unpredictable historical happenstance. On earth only one fragile species in 3.5 billion years has evolved such mental power — and no general trends in this direction can be discerned on a planet still in the Age of Bacteria, and so thoroughly dominated by insects among the multicellular components.

Martian life provides a first evidentiary step toward universalizing the Age of Bacteria; humans remain as gloriously accidental as ever. □

Stephen Jay Gould is professor of paleontology at Harvard.

Diaspora Jewry to Israel: Don't write us off

At the recent CAJE conference in Jerusalem, Abraham Rabinovich found that contrary to conventional wisdom, Diaspora Jewish identity may not be dying



Gilla Rosen listens to Nadia Natoul as she teaches Islam to a class at the CAJE conference.

(Brian Hender)

AMID the good cheer and ebullient Yiddishkeit, a disturbing thought stole upon an observer watching the largest-ever gathering in Israel of Diaspora Jewish educators enjoying a celebratory evening on the Jerusalem promenade last week.

Were these 1,700 enthusiastic teachers - some of them dancing to Israeli music on the loudspeakers - heralds of the Jewish future or anachronistic survivors of an irretrievably lost past?

"The Jewish education network is a finger in the dike," declared David Harman, director-general of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, which services Diaspora schools around the world. "Education alone can't turn the tide."

The tide he was talking about on the eve of the conference was Jewish identity in the Diaspora. In the US, more Jews die every year than are born. The intermarriage rate is 52 percent. While 6% of non-Jewish spouses convert to Judaism, 11% of Jews in mixed marriages convert out. No more than 20% of American Jews have ever been to Israel. Only half those children who are born Jewish receive any formal Jewish education - and then, for the most part, only a smattering. Fewer than 100 teachers are produced annually by American Jewish teachers' seminaries.

"One of the biggest problems in the US is that very few kids go on to Jewish secondary schools where one's identity is usually formed," said Harman, whose Jerusalem-based organization co-sponsored last week's conference with the American organization CAJE - The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education.

"A family in which Jewishness plays a small role will send a kid off to three or four years of supplementary school before his bar mitzva as a sort of a rite of passage. But if the kid doesn't live in a Jewish environment the chances of his becoming very Jewish are extremely slim."

While the Orthodox community in America is more than holding its own, the bulk of American Jewry is struggling to retain its identity amid the

powerful lures of the non-Jewish environment. The struggle, Harman acknowledged, is uphill. "Many communities don't care about Jewish education and just give lip service to it," he said.

The mordant thoughts evoked by the bald statistics were not entirely shared by participants in the conference themselves.

"No, the situation is not desperate," said Benzy Cogen, principal of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School, which has 300 students.

"Jewish day schools are growing. Jewish camping is growing by leaps and bounds. High school education is growing. The quality of program-

ming in many schools is much better than it was five, 10 years ago. Every Jewish adolescent is searching for something in terms of religious-spiritual growth, in terms of identity. Every kid is ripe for growing into a Jew."

But only 10% to 15% of Jewish school-age children in his area receive a serious Jewish education, Cogen acknowledged. Only a third of the 600,000 Jews in Los Angeles are affiliated with a synagogue and only about half of the children of even these affiliated families receive a Jewish education.

The future? "I think Jewish consciousness will

remain about the same," answers Cogen. "Camps and Sunday schools will remain strong. The people who will get lost will be those who study just for the bar mitzva. What we will have is a smaller core of more committed Jews. I'm not sure what the ramifications of that are."

A VERY different picture was presented by Jewish educators from the former Communist bloc attending the conference.

"We are at the beginning of a process which is going to see the number of children educated in Jewish schools expanding," said Dr. Anna

Szeszler, director of a Jewish school in Budapest which has 600 children from kindergarten through high school.

It is difficult to say how many Jews live in Budapest, she said, because of the loss of Jewish identity over the years and intermarriage. However, the number is expanding. In the six years since the collapse of communism, three Jewish schools have opened in the Hungarian capital.

"Many parents who didn't know how to express their Jewishness are beginning to find their own roots," said Szeszler, whose grandparents were killed in Auschwitz. "The children are teaching their parents. I see it happening." She does not speak Hebrew, but her children do.

In the countries of the former Soviet Union, notes Harman, close to 100,000 people are involved in Jewish education programs. "There has been an absolute renaissance in Jewish education there. Starting from nothing, there are now 40 day schools, 40 Sunday schools, 250 ulpanim and many summer camps."

Some Jewish communities in other parts of the world have succeeded in retaining a high level of Jewish consciousness, he noted. In Mexico, 85% of the community's youngsters attend Jewish schools through 12th grade and there is relatively little intermarriage. In Australia, the Jewish community is actually growing, thanks to immigration from South Africa, and because 75% of youngsters attend Jewish high schools. Elsewhere, Jewish communities are shrinking. The notable exception, of course, is Israel, which is booming demographically and serves as a major communal anchor for world Jewry.

SOME OF the American participants in the conference argued that appearances of assimilation in the largest Diaspora country are deceiving. "I think Jewish consciousness is increasing," said Dr. Barry Lever of Baltimore, a dentist who also teaches Jewish subjects in an afternoon school run by the Conservative movement. "Twenty years ago we didn't have a kosher restaurant in town. Now we have seven."

For many of the youngsters who drop out of Jewish education after their bar mitzva, he said, Jewish consciousness kicks in during their university years when they take Jewish studies courses. Many converts to Judaism have also become active members in the community.

"Orthodox growth is incredible and my own Conservative congregation is growing so fast we can't sell you a membership - there are no seats in the synagogue left."

"Whatever is happening, the 'pintele yid' [the nucleus of Jewish consciousness] is still there. There is a conscious effort to pass on our tradition. Don't write us off."

The president's power of pardon

Danger in the deep

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before Justices Theodore Orr, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorner, in the matter of Meir Emdor and The Terror Victims Organization, petitioners, versus the Israel Government and Minister of Justice, respondents (H.C.5205/96).

THE petitioners moved the Supreme Court to set aside State President Ezer Weizmann's decision of July 19, 1996, under section 11(b) of the Basic Law: The President of the State, of 1964, to reduce the life sentence of two women terrorists convicted of murder.

In delivering judgment, the court pointed out that the President had acted on the justice minister's recommendation based upon the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Authority relating to the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The release, however, had been delayed pending the court's decision. Citing numerous precedents, the court reiterated that the president, in exercising his wide discretion relating to the pardon of prisoners or the reduction of their sentences, was entitled to weigh rounds of state policy. He was justified, therefore, in including international agreements concerning the release of prisoners to which it was party.

The full facts relating to the prisoners' actions, in all their gravity, were before the president. At the same time the minister, in his recommendation, relied upon the above agreement under which Israel had consented to the release

LAW REPORT ASHER FELIX LANDAU

of Palestinian women prisoners as a confidence-building measure between the parties.

In all the circumstances, the court held, no fault could be found either with the minister's exercise of his discretion. There was, therefore, no basis for the court's intervention.

For the above reasons, the petition was dismissed. The petitioners appeared in person, and Malchiel Blass, Senior Assistant State Attorney, appeared for the government and the minister.

The judgment was given on July 24, 1996.

PAROLE BOARD DECISION SET ASIDE

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the President Justice Aharon Barak, the Deputy-President Justice Shlomo Levin, and Justice Dalia Dorner, in the matter of The Attorney-General, petitioner, versus Ya'acov Haim Alperon, respondent (H.C.5319/96).

Alperon, aged about 42, has a number of previous convictions mostly for crimes of violence. He was sentenced to various prison terms, but in most cases the parole board authorized his early release. After each case, however, he returned to a life of crime.

He was last sentenced to various prison terms for serious crimes

amounting in all to some seven years.

On July 21, 1996, the parole board at the Ma'asiyahu prison, chaired by a district court judge, again authorized his early release, and the attorney general petitioned the court to set that decision aside.

JUSTICE LEVIN, in delivering judgment, said the board had relied mainly on the following grounds: positive reports of Alperon's conduct in prison, including his contribution to rehabilitating drug addicts; his honest motivation, as it felt, to change his ways; many letters of recommendation including that of Nitzav-Mishneh Rafi Levy, spokesman of the internal security ministry, and two of Tat-Nirzav Leder, head of the police intelligence branch (although it refused to accept an amending letter from Levy which was submitted late); and a lot of intelligence material which, it said, did not affect its conclusions.

The court, he said, was conscious of its tendency to limit its intervention in district court decisions.

In the present case, however, the lack of balance in the board's decision between the factors involved justified the court's intervention.

Firstly, Alperon's many convictions, and his having broken faith with the board more than once in the past, imposed on him a heavy burden to convince it now of his honest intention to mend his ways. Secondly, after the court had

examined the classified material before the board and had received oral explanations, it had, contrary to the board, formed a negative impression of Alperon's conduct.

Thirdly, Leder's first letter did not support Alperon's early release and, moreover, he had submitted a second letter of clarification.

Fourthly, the board should not have refused to receive Levy's second letter; the court, with Alperon's consent, had read it, and it appeared he had written the first letter without having seen the intelligence material submitted to the board.

In conclusion, Justice Levin held that the board had failed to give proper weight to the heavy burden resting on Alperon of justifying his early release, and its reliance on Levy's first letter and on the intelligence material could not be supported. It should, therefore, have refused the application.

The petition was subsequently allowed, and the board's decision was set aside. Alperon would be entitled to renew his application to the board one year after the board's decision.

Orit Koren, Senior Assistant State Attorney, appeared for the attorney general, and Eli Cohen and Yarom Halevy appeared for Alperon.

The judgment was given on July 28, 1996.

EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

ability of digging under the missiles or trying to shift them gently onto a prepared concrete floor before enclosure.

In any case, the project is going to cost many millions of dollars and it is the Western nations that, as usual, have to foot the bill. I say as usual because at the moment, vast sums are being spent by international agencies, all funded by the capitalist countries, in order to shore up the crumbling nuclear reactors in the former USSR and its satellite countries before they too go the way of Chernobyl.

Nowhere is the former USSR's responsibility mentioned. Everyone knows that these states are bankrupt. Well, so was Germany at the end of World War II but as soon as it was on its financial feet the German people got the bill - and a hefty bill it was.

The warheads are too far gone to risk trying to lift them from the sea.

But even the sarcophagus idea is fraught with problems and one of them is how to get a proper layer of the containment under the crumbling weapons.

Marine engineers are still locked in debate about the advis-

The USSR also lost a costly war - the Cold War - and it seems strange that everyone seems to feel that bygones are just that and no account needs to be made.

But they should be called to account, and as soon as the countries of the former USSR are able, they should be obliged to pay compensation. These damages were caused by shoddy reactors, concealed evidence of serious mishaps like the sunken submarine or the illegal whaling carried out for decades with ships contrived to create a vapor cloud making satellite photos impossible.

This ploy, only recently discovered, rendered all information on whaling and whale population's invalid and meant that the multi-millions spent on research were simply wasted.

Today, there is no choice but to address the problems and to try to prevent disasters. But that is not enough. The culpable countries must accept their responsibility and pay the bill.

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Turkey seeking \$870m. food deal with Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Turkey is trying to secure food sale contracts for all the \$870 million Iraq has allocated for buying foodstuffs under its oil-for-food plan agreed with the United Nations, a Turkish businessman said yesterday.

A delegation of 27 Turkish businessmen is holding talks in Baghdad over trade deals under the plan allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicines.

Ahmet Kusculu, member of the Executive Board of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, said Turkey was ready to meet Iraq's entire food needs under the plan for which Baghdad has allocated \$870m.

"We are trying to export to Iraq [food worth

all] these \$870m," he told Reuters.

Iraq has been under strict trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait six years ago this month.

Under the plan, Iraq would be left with \$1.135b. after paying reparations for invasion victims and other UN costs. The money will be spent under UN supervision. A UN committee approved procedures for implementing the plan last week.

The bulk of the limited Iraqi oil exports is to be shipped through a pipeline to a Turkish terminal on the Mediterranean.

"The aim of our visit... is to supply Iraq with urgent needs like medicine and food products after the operation of the pipeline," Kusculu said of the Turkish team, which followed a stream of European, Asian and Arab delega-

tions flocking to Baghdad since Iraq accepted the oil-for-food plan in May.

Turkey has also asked the United Nations for permission to import Iraqi crude oil in return for selling food and medicine to Baghdad part from the May 20 agreement.

"Turkey is keen to have the UN permission to allow it to start trade exchange with Iraq to export food, medicine and other humanitarian needs in return for importing Iraqi crude," Iraq's official *al-Thawra* newspaper yesterday quoted Kusculu as saying.

"Turkish businessmen are coordinating with the Turkish government to raise trade exchange with Iraq to \$1b. until gradually it reaches pre-trade sanctions level which was \$2b. a year," he said.

Seoul holds back on investment in N. Korea

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea will take part in North Korea's ambitious project to attract Western capital but will avoid large-scale investments until Pyongyang signals a rapprochement, Seoul officials said yesterday.

They said Seoul had drawn up a list of about 50 companies that would attend an international seminar in reclusive North Korea on a special economic zone in the Rajin-Sonbong area.

"They will be mainly medium-sized companies which are willing and are capable of starting business in the North but most 'chaebol' groups are not included," a senior government official said referring to top South Korean conglomerates.

"North Korea will have to show sincerity towards the South before any major investments can take place," he told Reuters.

Pyongyang, which still maintains a policy of self-reliance, or "Juche", despite its desperate economic plight, has designated Rajin-Sonbong on the northeastern tip of the Korean peninsula as a free trade zone for foreigners.

The official said signs of sincerity and good faith could include ending verbal assaults on South Korea President Kim Young-sam, accepting a proposal for four-nation peace talks, or simply allowing Seoul and Washington to brief Pyongyang jointly on the peace offer.

In April, Kim and US President Bill Clinton asked North Korea and China to join their nations to work out a peace treaty to replace an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean war.

Pyongyang has not rejected the proposal outright but has insisted on bilateral talks with Washington, saying South Korea is not party to the

armistice agreement.

But North Korea, in a change in its stand, has recently sought South Korean participation in the Rajin-Sonbong project, according to UN officials.

"The North now openly says it wants investment from us but we should be convinced that the money it makes will not be used against us," an official at the South Korean Unification Ministry said.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Program are sponsoring the International Investment and Business Forum in Rajin from September 13-15.

Soft loans should not be limited to environmental protection projects but could be expanded to encompass agriculture and industry, said one unidentified MOFTEC official.

"In the long run, improved national strength is the fundamental means to care for the environment and we think the destination of soft loans should be extended to cover commercially viable projects," it quoted him as saying.

China has obtained more than \$23 billion in soft government loans since it first applied for such aid in 1980, he said.

In the first half of this year, 18 foreign governments pledged \$1.4b. in soft loans to China and agreement has been reached on 38 projects involving total financing of \$800 million, the official said without elaborating.

However, just 16 percent of all government loans were channeled into poor, inland provinces, he said.

Poverty-stricken areas face a dilemma in applying for such loans because they are refused funds if the projects for which they apply are profitable but face difficulties in repaying commercial loans, the official said.

China wants more soft loans for western regions

BEIJING (Reuters) China wants more soft loans from foreign governments to help to develop its remote and backward west and other poverty-stricken areas, a senior foreign trade official said.

To fuel development of China's poor interior, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) may allow Sino-foreign joint ventures easier access to domestic markets and lower the threshold for local approval of foreign-invested projects, ministry officials told yesterday's *China Daily Business Weekly*.

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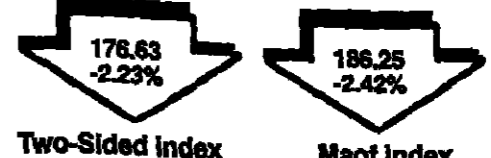
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TASE stocks fall sharply

ROBERT DANIEL



TASE stocks fell yesterday, led by Africa-Israel Investments, as withdrawals from provident funds forced fund managers to sell stocks, and even as traders expect a relatively low inflation rate for July.

Also leading stocks lower were Koor Industries Ltd. and Bank Hapoalim, down 2% to 2.8 percent respectively. On the plus side was Piryon-Trust Co. Investment, which jumped 10%, the daily limit, as it received a purchase offer at 35% above its market price.

"The CPI should be very low," with estimates of the rise ranging from 0.1% to 0.3%, said Ron Weisberg, broker at Israel Brokerage and Investments in Tel Aviv.

"When we started seeing the talk about the CPI, 'the market was pretty strong and bullish. Now people are looking further into the future and not seeing anything too bright."

The Two-Sided Index dropped 2.23% to 176.63, while the Maof Index shed 2.42% to 182.42.

The most active stock was Africa-Israel, down 8% on NIS 2.8 million of shares traded. Today was the last day that investors could bid for Bank Leumi's stake in the property developer.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 50 million of shares traded.

Monthly inflation might be as much as 1% a month beginning in September for the rest of 1996, Weisberg said. Consumer prices rose 7% in the first half.

Inflation matters to stock investors because faster rises in prices often prompt central banks to raise interest rates to slow the economy. Higher rates boost companies' borrowing costs, cutting into profits and often into stock prices.

Investors also are expecting further demands for withdrawals from the provident funds, which are partly tax-exempt retirement accounts for individuals, Weisberg said. The fund managers must sell stocks to meet the redemption demands.

And "there's still nothing new in the peace process," he said. The market is "still in the dark there."

"What I can say optimistically is that prices are ridiculous. They are very low" relative to the companies' actual values," said Weisberg echoed analysts who say investors were unaware of the value - NIS 3 billion - that was placed on Africa-Israel's insurance affiliate, Migdal.

The figure arose when an Italian insurer, Assicurazioni Generali SpA, agreed to boost its stake in Migdal to 56% from 27%, in a transaction with Bank Leumi and Africa-Israel.

(Bloomberg)

Australia will raise interest rates if budget not approved

THE Australian government threatened yesterday to raise interest rates and cancel election promises if the deficit-slashing budget it will announce on August 20 is not approved.

"If the budget doesn't go through, you won't get another interest rate cut," Treasurer Peter Costello said less than two weeks after the Reserve Bank of Australia implemented a surprise monetary easing.

"In fact, the interest rate cut of 0.5 percent of a couple of weeks ago could well be under threat," Costello told Seven Network television.

Non-government parties controlling the Senate, the upper house of parliament, oppose conservative Prime Minister John Howard's plan to cut A\$6 billion (US\$2.6 billion) a year from the budget, bringing it into balance in three years.

The Labor Party, shocked to find itself in opposition after 13 years of power, has said it will block any government measure that it thinks breaks a promise made in the March election. That includes almost any revenue increase, which Labor said would break Howard's promise not to raise taxes.

But such obstruction could make the government rethink other election promises, Costello said.

"The money to fund those schemes will obviously come from savings in other areas," he said. "Now, if they want to knock off the savings, how can you go ahead with the exciting new policies?"

Past borrowing now costs Canberra A\$10 billion a year in interest - more than two percent of gross domestic product - and contributed to a budget deficit for the fiscal year to June of A\$10 billion (excluding asset sales and the like).

Australia got a taste of government plans on Friday when Education Minister Amanda Vanstone announced cuts to university funding and increases in student fees.

The universities said they would have to turn away some students and that teaching standards would fall.

The Labor Party said the increased student charges would create a U.S.-style system in which children from poor families would have trouble gaining an education.

So Labor will oppose the changes, Opposition Leader Kim Beazley says.

But the government has a powerful constitutional weapon against Labor and the minor parties. Repeated obstruction of House of Representatives bills gives Howard the right to force the Senate to an early election.

If Howard wins the election - and he is far ahead of Labor in opinion polls - he could call a joint sitting of the two houses to debate the rejected bills. In that case the far more numerous lower house would prevail, finally imposing its will on the Senate.

(Reuters)

Precious metals futures close lower

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

PRECIOUS metals futures closed mostly lower on Friday as silver led the complex lower. Despite what looked like a promising price move earlier in the week for gold, and over the last several weeks for silver and platinum, the metals complex has not been able to clear initial resistance.

Gold received a boost last Monday as mining companies, and then other companies, covered their forward hedges. However, that also has weighed on the market as position buybacks are future forward sales. Sources said that trading activity was also affected by the expiration of gold and silver options.

December gold closed down \$1.10 at \$393.30. September silver closed down 5.8 cents at \$5.040. October platinum closed down \$2 at \$404.20. September palladium closed up 20 cents at \$130.90.

High grade copper futures closed to the upside Friday as a sizable increase in London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouse stocks was not enough to send copper lower. Apparently the market decided that the actual stocks figures weren't as bad as the fears about the stocks. Copper futures closed lower on Thursday as sources reported that the market was growing concerned about Friday's stock figures.

LME stocks have posted a steady increase during the last two weeks. COMEX September copper futures closed up 60 basis points at \$0.9210.

Soy complex futures closed higher after a late session rally hurtled the market to new weekly highs, with November soybeans in a "fast" trade near the close. Sources noted commercial buying helped to start the rally and fund buying eventually kicked in for the soybeans.

The November soybean futures contract closed up 6-3/4 at \$7.64. Late strength in the soybeans helped the grains sustain a small rally at the close after a quiet day of mostly position-squaring. Sources noted mostly fund buying in late trade, although they said it was on light volume.

Qatar invites bids to expand refinery

DOHA (Reuters) - Qatar has invited bids to boost its sole oil refinery's capacity in order to increase exports of oil products on the regional market, a senior official said on Saturday.

"Nine major engineering groups have been invited to bid for a \$400 million project to increase the Umm Said refinery's capacity to 80,000 barrels a day," said a Qatari official at Qatar General Petroleum Corporation.

Qatar produces 62,000 barrels per day (bpd) of lead-free gasoline, diesel, kerosene and aviation fuel. More than two-thirds are exported to neighboring states.

"We see the demand in the regional market, including Iraq and Iran, growing rapidly, while refining is not keeping pace with the growing demand," the official said.

"Even if we produce 200,000 bpd, I am sure there is a market for it in the region," he said.

The official predicted that Iraq and Iran may not be able to add to their refining capacity for the next few years because of international sanctions and financial limitations.

"Jordan and Syria may also be potential markets," the official said.

Qatar, a small OPEC producer, which turned into an exporter of refined products from a net importer in 1982, sells about 44,000 bpd of oil products.

Most are bought by international oil companies operating from Bahrain. The Qatari lead-free gasoline attracts a dollar premium over average Gulf product prices.

The proposed expansion envisages utilization of condensates produced at the time of gas production at the North Field - the world's largest single offshore gas field - to produce refined products.

The companies invited to offer bids are Japan Gasoline Company, Japan's Chiyoda Corp., US companies Brown and Root, Bechtel, Foster Wheeler and ABB Lummus Global, Fluor Daniel of Canada, Italy's Snamprogetti and France's Technip.

Officials said the companies have been asked to submit financial proposals along with their offers.

Multi-sided trading				Two-sided trading			
Name	Price	Change	%	Name	Price	Change	%
Commercial Banks				AFTERNOON			
Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17	Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17
Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06	Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06
Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09	Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09
Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17	Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17
Mortgage Banks & Finance				MORNING			
Bank Leumi	208.80	-0.1	-0.05	Bank Leumi	208.80	-0.1	-0.05
Bank Hapoalim	209.94	-0.1	-0.05	Bank Hapoalim	209.94	-0.1	-0.05
Bank Mizrahi	143.20	-0.1	-0.07	Bank Mizrahi	143.20	-0.1	-0.07
Bank Discount	398.20	-0.1	-0.03	Bank Discount	398.20	-0.1	-0.03
Financial Institutions				Investment Companies			
Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17	Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17
Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06	Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06
Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09	Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09
Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17	Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17
Insurance				Property, Building & Agriculture			
Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17	Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17
Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06	Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06
Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09	Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09
Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17	Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17
Trade & Services				Oil Exploration			
Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17	Bank Leumi	177.16	-0.3	-0.17
Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06	Bank Hapoalim	174.50	-0.1	-0.06
Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09	Bank Mizrahi	108.80	-0.1	-0.09
Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17	Bank Discount	154.00	-1.8	-1.17

Police begin questioning Ne'eman

BILL HUTMAN and MICHAL YUDELMAN

FORMER justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman was interrogated for an hour yesterday at National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem, regarding allegations that he had tried to influence a witness in the Deri trial to not cooperate with police.

Ne'eman, at the police's request, brought documents with him that are hoped to shed additional light on the case. A senior police source said Ne'eman would be summoned again, and that investigators believe that the inquiry would be finished quickly.

Ne'eman was questioned on the allegations that in 1991 he tried to convince a witness, Martin Brown, an Israeli citizen who resides in England, not to cooperate with police investigating alleged financial wrongdoing by former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair last week ordered an investigation into the matter. As a result, Ne'eman resigned as justice minister. The decision on whether to press charges in the case will be Ben-Yair's.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that he hoped the investigation would be completed quickly and that Ne'eman would be cleared.

More than 300 lawyers from the State Attorney's Office and district attorneys' offices have signed a letter condemning Ne'eman's state-

ments about employees of the Attorney-General's Office which questioned their motives in investigating him.

"As opposed to Ne'eman's statements, attorneys employed by the state are civil servants with a variety of opinions and loyalties who faithfully complete their tasks in a professional manner, without [interior] motives," reads the letter, released to the media yesterday evening.

The letter expressed the lawyers' regret over the entire incident and emphasized that Ne'eman's words had had a highly negative effect on the public's confidence in the legal system.

Labor MKs yesterday also condemned the accusations Ne'eman hurled at Justice Ministry workers, the attorney-general and the state attorney. MK Avraham Shohat said that even if Ne'eman is acquitted in the end, he would not be able to return to the Justice Ministry after making such statements.

Labor leader Shimon Peres spoke out against "the atmosphere of purges in the ministries and Civil Service, as though the IDF is a partisan thing and only those who think like the party can serve in it, and as though the justice system and the civil service are party matters. In fact, they are robbing us of the common denominator of our existence as a people."

Tim contributed to this report.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai tries out a pilot's helmet with the help of OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu during a visit to a base yesterday. (IDF Spokesman)

Home Front Command: 1 out of 3 Israelis do not have adequate shelter

SINCE the 1991 Gulf war, Arab states have heavily stockpiled surface-to-surface missiles and the threat to Israel is much worse today than when Iraqi Scuds slammed into Tel Aviv. Despite this, one in every three Israelis does not have adequate shelter protection from missiles and some 400,000 people are without gas masks.

Nevertheless, OC Home Front Maj.-Gen. Shmuel Arad said the IDF is capable of protecting the population against air or missile attack.

"We can't totally prevent them... there is no total security," Arad told military reporters. "There is no other nation which faces threats like the State of Israel [is facing], but the response given to the citizens today is the best and no other country in the world, including much wealthier ones,

knows how to give an encompassing protection as we do."

Arad was speaking to mark the beginning of Home Front week. His comments came just a few weeks after the government decided that gas masks were not to be called in for maintenance next year.

Col. Arie Ben-Shalom, head of the gas masks branch of the Home Front, said there are 5.5 million gas masks in the hands of the public and the remaining 400,000 citizens had not bothered to collect their masks. He said some 83 percent of his branch's work is devoted to maintaining gas masks already held by Israelis. Batteries die, filters must be replaced and injections of antitoxins expire. Halting this program would save about NIS 120 million, Ben-

Shalom said.

Arad came out in favor of the existing plan to maintain gas masks.

However, he was cautious not to get involved in a political argument, saying it was up to the government to decide the fate of the gas mask program.

"We certainly understand that there are budgetary considerations. The data was presented to the prime minister and defense minister and I presume they will receive the appropriate answers," Arad said.

"There is no limit to safety and you can invest in it without end. I think that the basic security components the supply, as part of the IDF umbrella, give a fundamental response," Arad said, adding that the Home Front is currently

installing a warning network system throughout the country.

"In a few months, most of the state of Israel will be linked up to this network," he said.

Arad also said that a special project is underway to install complete safety features in Arab villages in the North. He said that during Operation Grapes of Wrath, Hizbullah broke its tradition of not shelling Israeli-Arab settlements and that every Arab village under Katyusha threat would be addressed in the coming year.

Arad said 35 percent of the population does not have access to bomb shelters or security rooms. However, he noted that this is an improvement and that the percentage is being reduced every year.

"I feel that we are giving today the appropriate responses to the existing threats," Arad said.

WEATHER

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. No change in temperature.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	21	cloudy
Berlin	15	25	clear
Buenos Aires	15	25	clear
Chicago	15	25	clear
Copenhagen	15	25	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	25	clear
Geneva	15	25	clear
Helsinki	15	25	clear
Hong Kong	25	35	clear
Jakarta	25	35	clear
London	15	25	clear
Los Angeles	15	25	clear
Madrid	15	25	clear
Moscow	15	25	clear
New York	15	25	clear
Paris	15	25	clear
Rome	15	25	clear
Stockholm	15	25	clear
Tokyo	15	25	clear
Vienna	15	25	clear
Zurich	15	25	clear

Rishpon family: Residents want to kill us

RAINE MARCUS

NETANYA police have dismissed reports that residents of Rishpon are trying to kill the Ginzberg family, who said they were bombarded with blocks, stones and "bottles filled with inflammable substances" last Friday night.

Aharon and Sally Ginzberg, residents of Rishpon, said yesterday that they are convinced that several masked men armed with rocks, firebombs and a knife, were trying to kill them in a vendetta because of court petitions filed by the family.

Aharon Ginzberg said that someone tried to stab him, and fired two shots in the air with a licensed pistol. Police on the other hand, said that after a detailed investigation, no-one had been found who tried to stab Ginzberg. All those detained after the incident had had criminal files opened against them for "causing damage to property only," the police said. The family, said a senior officer, is deliberately trying to inflame the incident.

In the past, Ginzberg has filed

several petitions to the High Court of Justice and the Tel Aviv District Court against what he describes as injustices, unfair play and violation of the family's rights by other Rishpon residents who are members of the Farmers' Association.

In his petitions Ginzberg also accused residents and those close to the local council of financial and administrative irregularities.

Since then, he says, his family has been subjected to threats.

Graffiti at the entrance to the moshav, several kilometers north of Kfar Shmaryahu, read that, if Ginzberg continues his legal campaign, he will be in a wheelchair and then hanged at the gallows.

"We investigated the whole incident on Friday night and Saturday," said a Sharon sub-district police officer.

"We questioned people, and are now convinced more than ever that the family has blown the whole incident out of proportion. No-one tried to kill Mr Ginzberg."

MK Darawshe offers to mediate with Palestinian groups in Syria over MIAs

DAVID RUDGE

MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) yesterday offered to mediate with Palestinian organizations in Syria, following a report that the

bodies of Israeli MIAs are buried there.

Darawshe said he was also prepared to travel to Syria and meet with the authorities there to determine the whereabouts of the MIAs, if he received an official request from the government.

This follows revelations by an Israeli-Arab journalist that he was told during a visit to Syria two years ago that the bodies of 10 Israelis were buried in cemeteries near Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

Darawshe said yesterday that the journalist, whom he named as Ghassan B'tzul from Reina village near Nazareth, was reliable and responsible.

The journalist had been part of a delegation headed by Darawshe which went to Syria two years ago to offer condolences to President Hafez Assad over the death of his son Basil.

The reporter's story appeared in a recent edition of the Nazareth-based Arabic language weekly *Kol al-Arab*. The newspaper report said the reporter, who lives in a village near Nazareth, went to the Al-Yarmuk

Palestinian refugee camp during the visit to Syria and met with a senior official from one of the Palestinian organizations which has headquarters in Damascus.

According to the report, the journalist was taken to a cemetery near the camp where he was told a number of Israelis were buried. He also said that he noticed some graves with numbers in Arabic. He was reportedly told that those buried there included the three missing soldiers from the 1982 Sultan Yacoub battle in Lebanon, Yehuda Katz, Zacharia Baumel and Zvi Feldman, as well as two soldiers missing from the 1968 Karameh battle against Palestinians in Jordan, and a Jewish woman.

Furthermore, he learned that other bodies were buried at a cemetery at another refugee camp near Damascus, and that over the years the bodies had been moved from one cemetery to another because of disputes between Palestinian organizations over responsibility for the bodies.

The journalist apparently decided to reveal the story after reports on Israel Radio a week ago, based

on Palestinian sources, that bodies of MIAs were buried in Syria.

"I intend to check the *Kol al-Arab* report with the reporter. If it transpires there is any truth in this matter, I am prepared to mediate with members of Palestinian organizations in Syria," said Darawshe.

Darawshe said he had already been approached by Yosef Katz, father of Yehuda Katz, and had promised to investigate the reports.

"If I receive an official request [from the government] I am also prepared to travel to Syria and meet with the authorities there. This is an important humanitarian and political issue and I willing to contribute whatever I can," said Darawshe.

AP adds: Hizbullah last night offered to exchange a captured SLA militiaman for Hizbullah fighters held in the security zone.

Sheik Naim Qassem, Hizbullah's deputy secretary general, said Hizbullah gunmen captured the man a week ago in the security zone.

"We're ready to exchange him if they accept," Qassem told a rally.

Winning cards

DAVID RUDGE

IN yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, the seven of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the ace of clubs.

Two gunmen reported killed in South Lebanon clash

DAVID RUDGE

TWO gunmen, apparently from a Palestinian organization, were reported to have been killed in a clash with IDF troops inside the security zone yesterday morning.

There were no IDF casualties in the clash, which, according to news agencies reporting from Lebanon, occurred near Taloussa village in the zone's central sector.

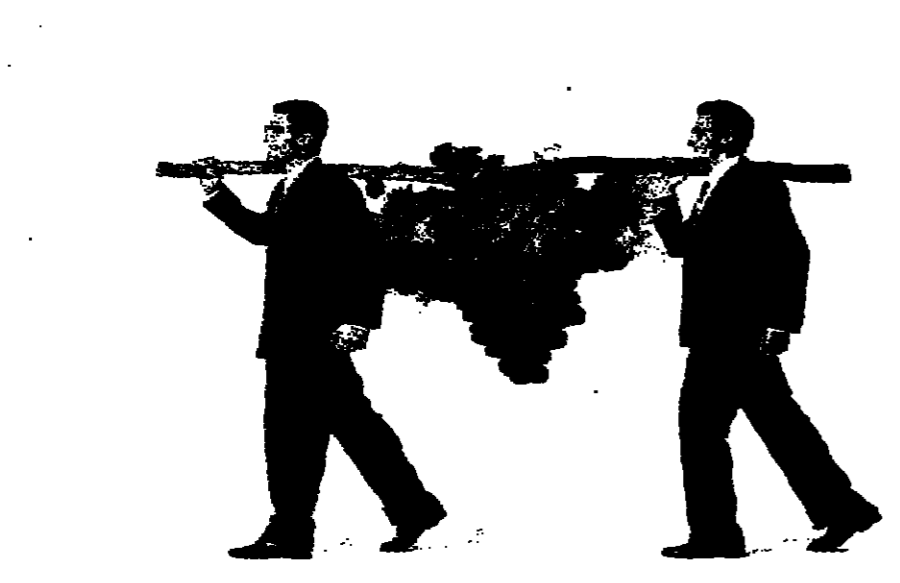
The agency reports, quoting South Lebanese Army sources, said IDF troops had spotted a squad of gunmen trying to infiltrate the zone and had opened fire on them, killing two.

The gunmen are believed to have been en route to carry out an attack against IDF and SLA troops. This follows recent Hizbullah operations which killed one IDF soldier and wounded four others.

By last night, no organization had claimed responsibility for yesterday morning's incident. Reports from Lebanon, however, said it appears that the gunmen killed in the incident were members of a Palestinian organization, probably George Habash's *Popular Front* for the Liberation of Palestine.

The IDF spokesman confirmed that IDF troops had clashed with terrorists in the security zone. A terse IDF statement said that soldiers on operational duties in the zone had encountered a terrorist squad.

The statement only said the soldiers opened fire and hit the gunmen, and that there were no casualties among the IDF troops.



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